

NEW YORK State
Feb 16-21, 1861

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Pre-Inaugural Speeches of Abraham Lincoln, 1861

New York State
Feb. 16-21, 1861

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
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His Speech at Buffalo.

Buffalo, 16th. Mr. Lincoln arrived here this afternoon. He was met by a deputation of citizens, headed by Millard Fillmore. A hearty greeting passed between them. The crowd was very dense. All along the route from Cleveland he was enthusiastically received. Horace Greeley joined the party at Girard and accompanied it to Erie. At Dunkirk, while addressing the people, Mr. Lincoln, grasping the staff of the American flag, under the folds of which he stood, announced his intention to stand by that flag, and asked the people to stand by him so long as he should do so.

At Erie he addressed the people, excusing himself for not expressing his opinion on the exciting questions of the day. He trusted, when the time for speaking came, he should find it necessary to say nothing not in accordance with the Constitution and the interests of the people of the whole country.

At Geneva, O., one of the crowd addressed Lincoln, exhorting him to stand by the Constitution and the cause of liberty.

Mr. Lincoln made the following speech here.

Mr. Mayor and fellow-citizens of the State of New York: I am here to thank you briefly for this grand reception given me, not personally, but as the representative of our great, beloved country. Your worthy Mayor has been pleased to mention in his address to me the fortunate, agreeable journey I have had from home, only it is rather a circuitous route to the Federal Capital. I am very happy he was able in truth to congratulate myself and company on that fact. It is true we have had nothing thus far to mar our pleasure trip. We have not been met alone by those who assisted in giving the election returns to me, but by the whole population of the country through which we have passed. This is as it should be. Had the election fallen on any other of the distinguished candidates instead of myself under the peculiar circumstances, it would have been proper for all citizens to have greeted him as you have me. It is evidence of the devotion of the whole people to the Constitution, the Union, and the perpetuity of the liberties of this country.

I am unwilling on any occasion that I should be so meanly thought of as to have it supposed for a moment these demonstrations are meant for me personally. They are tendered to the country; to the institutions of the country, and to the perpetuity of the liberties of the country for which those institutions were made and created. Your worthy Mayor has thought fit to express the hope I might be able to relieve the country from the present, or, I should say, the threatened difficulties. I am sure I bring a heart true to the work. (Tremendous applause.) For the ability to perform it I must trust in that Supreme Being who has never forsaken this favored land, through the instrumentality of this great, intelligent people. Without that assistance I shall surely fail. With it I cannot fail.

When we speak of threatened difficulties to the country, it is natural that it should be expected something should be said by myself with regard to particular measures. Upon more mature reflection, however, and others will agree with me, when it is considered that these difficulties are without precedent, and have never been acted upon by any individual situated as I am, it is most proper I should wait to see the development and get all the light possible, so that when I do speak authoritatively, I may be as near right as possible. (Cheers.) When I shall speak authoritatively, I hope to say nothing inconsistent with the Constitution, the Union, the rights of all the States, of each State, and each section of the country, and not to disappoint the reasonable expectations of these who have confided to me their votes.

In this connection, allow me to say that you, as a portion of the great American people, need only to maintain your composure—stand up to your sober convictions of right, to your obligations to the Constitution, and act in accordance with those sober convictions, and the clouds which now arise in the horizon will be dispelled, and we shall have a bright, glorious future; and when this generation has passed away, tens of thousands will inhabit this country where only thousands inhabit it now. I do not propose to address you at length. I have no voice for it. Allow me to thank you for this magnificent ovation, and bid you farewell.

Buffalo, 17th. Mr. Lincoln attended church this morning with Ex-President Fillmore, and subsequently dined with him. A special train with Mr. Lincoln and party will leave at 5:45 tomorrow morning for Albany. Five of the Governor's staff, the Mayor of Rochester, and the Chairman of the Rochester Committee will join the party here.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

Progress of Mr. Lincoln.

UTICA, N. Y., 18th.

Mr. Lincoln left Buffalo before 6 o'clock this morning. He was escorted to the depot by the military and several hundred citizens. Mr. Greeley and others have joined the party.

At Batavia the train stopped five minutes. Mr. Lincoln responded to the cheers by simply bowing his acknowledgment.

The train arrived at Rochester at 8 o'clock, when Mr. Lincoln was introduced by Mayor Scranton to about 8000 people. In response to cheers, he said he was not vain enough to believe this vast assemblage was met here to see him as an individual, but because for the time being he was the representative of the American people.

He then excused himself from making a speech, owing to fatigue. He was received with great enthusiasm. He is still hoarse.

At Clyde he was welcomed by a firing of a salute. A large crowd had assembled at the depot, who received Mr. Lincoln with cheers, for which he thanked the people, but had no speech to make and no time to make it in.

At Syracuse 10,000 people received Mr. Lincoln. A platform was erected, draped with American flags, but he declined addressing the assemblage, saying they "must not draw inferences from his refusal, in regard to any other platform with which his name was associated."

BOSTON ADV

THE PRESIDENTIAL TRIP.

Magnificent Reception at Albany.

Re-transcript Feb 19, 1861
SPEECHES BY MR. LINCOLN.

UTICA, N. Y., 18th.

The arrival of Mr. Lincoln and party here was announced by the firing of a salute. There was a great throng to receive him and he was heartily welcomed. He was introduced to the people by the mayor and made a brief speech, thanking the people for his reception. The train stopped but a few moments. The Legislative committee joined the party here.

Albany, Feb. 18. Mr. Lincoln was greeted heartily at Little Falls. The church bells were rung, and a highly excited crowd eaded for a speech, which Mr. Lincoln declined to make.

The people at Fonda turned out *en masse*. There were large crowds at Amsterdam and Schenectady. As the train approached the latter place, a cannon was recklessly fired point blank at the first car, the concussion bursting the door open and breaking three windows, covering several persons with glass. No one was injured.

In this city Mr. Lincoln was received with deafening cheers. He was welcomed by Mayor Thacher in behalf of the City Council and citizens, to which Mr. Lincoln replied as follows:

Mr. Mayor—I can hardly appropriate the flattering terms in which you tender this reception as personal to myself. I most gratefully accept the hospitalities tendered me. I will not detain you or the audience with extended remarks at this time. I presume in the two or three courses through which I shall have to go I shall have to repeat somewhat, and will therefore only repeat to you my thanks for this kind reception.

The route to the Capitol was densely thronged, and the windows were filled with ladies. Flags were displayed in profusion, and a strip of canvas across Broadway bore the inscription, "Welcome to the Capitol of the Empire State! No more compromises!" The greetings of the citizens were most cordial throughout. In the Capitol Park an immense concourse of people was assembled, and the task of the military and police to preserve order was anything but easy.

Mr. Lincoln was conducted immediately to the Executive Chamber and introduced to the Governor. The State officers and the Governor's Staff only were present. After welcoming the President elect, the Governor proceeded with him to the head steps of the Capitol, where he was greeted with a roar of applause. Mr. Lincoln gazed at the crowd in apparent amazement at its vastness, and said, "Governor, do you think we can make all these people hear us?" Mr. Morgan replied with a dubious shake of his head, and made one or two ineffectual efforts, waving his hat to still the noise of the multitude, but the confusion rendered the speeches a dumb show, except to those in the immediate vicinity. The Governor extended a welcome in behalf of the State. Loud cheers followed.

Mr. Lincoln replied: Mr. Governor—I was pleased to receive an invitation to visit the capital of the Empire State of this nation on my way to the Federal capital, and I now thank you, Mr. Governor, and the people of the State of New York, for this most hearty and magnificent welcome. If I am not at fault, the great Empire State at this time contains a greater population than did the United States of America at the time she achieved her independence. I am proud to be invited to pass through your capital, and to meet your citizens as I have now the honor to do. I am notified by your Governor that this reception is given without distinction of party, and I accept it the more gladly because it is so. Almost all the men of this country, and in any country where freedom of thought is tolerated, attach themselves to political parties. It is but ordinary charity to attribute this to the fact that, in attaching himself to the party which his judgment prefers, the citizen believes he thereby promotes the best interests of the whole country, and when an election is passed, it is altogether befitting a free people, that, until the next election, they should be as one people.

The reception you give me this day is not given to me personally; it should not be so, but only as a representative at the time being of a majority of the nation. If the election had resulted in the choice of either of the other candidates, the same cordiality should have been extended to him as is extended to me this day in testimony of the devotion of the whole people to the Constitution, to the whole Union, and of their desire to perpetuate our institutions and to hand them down in their perfection to succeeding generations. I have neither voice nor strength to address you at any greater length. I beg you will accept my most grateful thanks for this devotion not to me but to this great, glorious and free country. (Loud applause.)

After bowing to the vast crowd, Mr. Lincoln was conducted to the Assembly Chamber, which was densely filled. The whole assembly arose and greeted the President elect enthusiastically.

After an introduction, Senator Colvin welcomed the President in behalf of the sovereign people of the State to the Representative Halls of the State.

Mr. Lincoln responded—Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Legislature of the State of New York: It is with feelings of great diffidence, I may say with feelings of awe, perhaps greater than I have recently experienced, that I meet you here in this place. The history of this great State the renown of those great men who have stood here, and spoken here, and been heard here, all crowd around my fancy, and incline me to shrink from any attempt to address you. Yet I have some confidence given me by the generous manner in which you have received me, to speak further.

You have invited and received me without distinction of party. I cannot for a moment suppose that this has been done in any considerable degree with reference to my personal services, but that it is done in so far as I am regarded at this time, as a representative of the majority of this great nation. I doubt not that this is the truth and the whole truth of the case, and this is as it should be. It is much more gratifying to me that this reception has been given to me as the representative of a free people, than it could possibly be if tendered to me as an evidence of devotion to me or any one man personally.

Now I think it were fitting that I should close these hasty remarks. It is true that while I hold myself without mock modesty the humblest of all the individuals who have been elected to the Presidency, I have a more difficult task to perform than any of them. You have generously tendered me support, united support, in this great Empire State. For this, in behalf of the nation, in behalf of civil and religious liberty for all time to come, most gratefully do I thank you. I do not propose to enter into an explanation of any particular line of policy as to our present difficulties to be adopted by the incoming administration.

I deem it just to you, to myself, to all, that I should see everything, that I should hear everything, that I should have every light that can be brought within my reach, that in order when I do speak I shall have enjoyed every opportunity to take correct and true ground, and for this reason I do not propose to speak at this time of the policy of the government. But when the time comes I shall speak, as well as I am able, for the good of the present and future of this country, for the good both of the North and the South of this country, for the good of the one and the other and all sections of the country. (Rounds of applause.)

In the meantime, if we have patience, if we restrain ourselves, if we allow ourselves not to run off in a passion, I still have confidence that the Almighty Maker of the Universe will, through the instrumentality of this great and intelligent people, bring us through this as he has through all the other difficulties of our country. Relying on this, I again thank you for this generous reception. (Applause.)

The Legislature took a recess, and the members and visitors were introduced to the President elect. Mr. Lincoln was again escorted to the Executive chamber, where he was introduced to the State officers. He was then escorted by the Legislative Committee and the 25th regiment to his hotel.

PREPARATIONS AT PHILADELPHIA.

Philadelphia, Feb. 18. Active preparations are making for the reception of Mr. Lincoln. An invitation is to be extended to him to raise a flag with thirty-four stars over Independence Hall on the morning of the 23d.

There will be a grand military celebration at Harrisburg on the 22d.

PROGRESS OF THE PRESIDENT ELECT.

B. T. News Service, Albany, N. Y., 19th
Albany, 19th. Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln dined yesterday with Gov. Morgan at his house. After dinner Mr. Lincoln returned to his quarters at the Delavan House, where, during the evening, he received visits, first from the ladies and then from the gentlemen. The Delavan House was crowded to suffocation during the entire evening.

Hudson, N. Y., 19th. Mr. Lincoln left Albany at 8 o'clock precisely, and was escorted to the depot by the Burgess Corps. Prolonged and hearty cheers greeted him as the train moved off. He passed several stations which were filled with people, who made enthusiastic demonstrations.

Troy, N. Y., 19th. The Presidential train stopped here for a short time. Mr. Lincoln was welcomed by the Mayor and briefly responded.

Reception of President Lincoln by the Legislature.

The Assembly Chamber was crowded to its fullest capacity, and presented a very fine appearance. All those present in the galleries, and a majority of those in the lower lobby were ladies, while many of the same sex found room within the bar under the gallant resolution of Mr. CALLAHAN.

The Speaker's desk was occupied by Senator COLVIN on the right and Mr. Speaker LITTLEJOHN on the left.

When LINCOLN entered the Chamber, the whole assemblage rose and greeted him with loud clapping of hands and waving of handkerchiefs.

Senator FLANN, advancing in front of the Speaker's desk, said:

"I have the honor to introduce to the Senate and Assembly of the State of New York, in Joint Convention assembled, the Hon. ABRAHAM LINCOLN, of Illinois, President elect of the United States."

"The Speaker of the Assembly, descending to the floor, greeted Mr. LINCOLN, and leading him up to the desk, introduced him to Senator COLVIN. After shaking hands, Mr. COLVIN also descended from the desk, leaving the President elect alone, and welcomed him from the Clerk's desk, as follows:

MR. COLVIN'S ADDRESS.

Mr. LINCOLN: On behalf of the representatives of the sovereign people of New York we welcome you to the Capitol and to the Representative Halls of the State. We welcome you as the President elect of thirty millions of people. We welcome you as the President elect according to the terms of the Constitution of the United States. And when, sir, you shall have assumed, as you soon will assume, the office of President of the United States, you may, in the discharge of your Constitutional duties, rely upon the support of the people of this great State. [Great applause.] I have the pleasure, sir, to introduce you to the Legislature of New York, in joint convention assembled to welcome the President elect of the United States. [Renewed applause.]

Mr. LINCOLN responded as follows:

MR. LINCOLN'S REPLY TO MR. COLVIN.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the General Assembly of the State of New York:

It is with feelings of great diffidence, and I may say, with feelings even of awe, perhaps greater than I have recently experienced that I meet you here in this place.

The history of this great State, the renown of those great men that have stood here, and spoken here, and been heard here—all crowd around my fancy, and incline me to shrink from any attempt to address you.

Yet I have some confidence given me by the generous manner in which you have invited me, and by the still more generous manner in which you have received me, to speak further. You have invited and received me without distinction of party. I cannot for a moment suppose that this has been done, in any considerable degree, with reference to my personal services—but that it is done in so far as I am regarded, at this time, as the representative of the Majesty of this great Nation.

I doubt not this is the truth and the whole truth of the case, and this is as it should be. It is much more gratifying to me that this reception has been given to me as the representative of a Free People, than it could possibly be if tendered to me as an evidence of devotion to me, or to any one man personally.

And now I think it were more fitting that I should close these hasty remarks. It is true, while I hold myself, without mock modesty, the humblest of all the individuals that have been elevated to the Presidency, that I have a more difficult task to perform than any of them.

You have generously tendered me the support—the united support—of the great Empire

in behalf of the present and future of the Nation—in behalf of civil and religious liberty, for all time to come—most gratefully do I thank you. I do not propose to enter into an explanation of any particular line of policy, as to our present difficulties, to be adopted by the incoming Administration. I deem it just to you, to myself, to all, that I should see every thing, that I should hear every thing—that I should have every light that can be brought within my reach, in order that when I do so speak I shall have enjoyed every opportunity to take correct and true ground—and for this reason, I do not propose to speak, at this time, of the policy of the government; but when the time comes I shall speak as well as I am able for the good of the present and future of this country—for the good both of the north and of the south of this country—for the good of the one and other, and of all sections of the country. [Rounds of applause.] In the meantime, if we have patience—if we restrain ourselves—if we allow ourselves not to run off in a passion, I still have confidence that the Almighty Maker of the Universe, will, through the instrumentality of this great and intelligent people, bring us through this as He has through all the other difficulties of our country. Relying on this, I again thank you for this generous reception. [Applause and cheers.]

Immediately following the address the Speaker said:

The joint convention of the two Houses will now take a recess, to give members of the Senate and Assembly an opportunity of introduction to Mr. LINCOLN.

Mr. LINCOLN then descended to the space in front of the Speaker's desk. As he descended, a page asked leave to shake hands with him. "Certainly," replied Mr. LINCOLN, "are you a Senator or a Representative?" "Well, I'm a Representative, sir," replied the boy, and he received a hearty shake of the hand that is so soon to deal out Custom Houses, Postoffices, Marshals, and other "fat drippings" from the executive pan.

As he advanced to the front of the desk, Mr. LINCOLN turned, and said: "I want to get rid of my hat—only for a time though. Shall I be safe in leaving it here?" This was accompanied by a smile and a knowing glance, as though to indicate that he had heard of the New York Legislature and understood where he was. He placed his hat on the desk.

The Members of the Senate, Assembly, Common Council, Officers and a few visitors were then introduced and welcomed the President.

At 1 o'clock, the Speaker called to order, and Mr. LINCOLN retired, escorted by Senator FERRIS and Mr. BALL, of the Assembly, to the Executive Chamber.

The Senators returned, and at 1:01, on motion of Mr. ENGLISH, the House adjourned.

In the Governor's Room, Mr. LINCOLN was introduced to the State officers, who were assembled to receive him, and was then conducted by the Legislative Committee through the double ranks of the High Legation, who were ranged as he passed to his carriage.

The cortege then proceeded to the Delavan House, attended and cheered by an immense concourse of people. Here the Committee took their leave, and Mr. LINCOLN retired to the apartments provided for him, where he saw only a few particular friends.

He then proceeded with Mrs. LINCOLN to Governor MORGAN'S residence, where he took dinner returning to his rooms at the Delavan House at an early hour. During the evening he received calls, first from ladies and next from citizens generally. The Delavan was crowded to suffocation all the evening and many hundreds paid their respects to the President

THE RECEPTION OF MR. LINCOLN AT NEW YORK.

3, Hamlin Feb 18 1861
New York, 18th. The Council Committee of Reception went to Albany Saturday, to meet Mr. Lincoln.

The Brooklyn, Jersey City, Hoboken, and other city organizations, will join the Wide Awake organization of this city in the reception. The entire train of cars sent for the conveyance of President Lincoln are new. The car for the President being beautifully decorated with thirty-four stars, American flags festooned with tricolors, and furnished with crimson velvet ottomans and divans.

Mr. Lincoln will stop at the Astor House, where he will be joined by Mr. Hamlin tomorrow. On Wednesday both will hold a reception at City Hall.

MOVEMENTS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT ELECT.

BANGOR, 18th.

Vice-President Hamlin and lady left here this morning for Washington. They will arrive at Boston this evening, and leave that city for the West tomorrow morning. The Vice President was escorted from Hampden to our city line by a large number of his fellow-townsmen, and was received by the Mayor and Ex-Mayor of this city. Notwithstanding the early hour in the morning, an immense procession of citizens, in single and double sleighs, escorted him to the station. Mr. Hamlin was there received with the enthusiastic cheers, warm greetings and affectionate farewells of thousands of his fellow-citizens.

In reply to a brief address by C. S. Crosby, Esq., Mr. Hamlin made a few remarks as the train was starting. In the course of his address he said: I go to the discharge of official duties which have been conferred on me by a generous people, relying upon a Divine Providence. I trust that confidence will never be betrayed. I know full well that dark clouds are lowering around the political horizon, and that madness rules the hour. But I am hopeful still; our people are not only loyal to the Government, but they are fraternal to all the citizens, and when in practice it shall be demonstrated that the constitutional rights of all the States will be respected and maintained by following the path illumined by Washington, Jefferson and Madison, may we not reasonably hope and expect that quiet will be restored and the whole country still advanced in a career which will elevate man in a social, moral and intellectual condition.

Atlas & Argus

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1861.

The Quarrel for the Custody of the President Elect!

The fight for the possession of LINCOLN, which occupied the two Houses of the Legislature, their Committees, the Governor, the Press and the Lobby, all last week, continued up to the last moment; and while the cannons were firing salutes of Welcome, the two Houses were discharging volleys of vituperation at each other, at the Governor, at the Committees, and at the arrangements.

There was a sumptuous dinner for him at Congress Hall, prepared by Gen. MICHAEL, - another at the Delavan, got up under orders from the Joint Committee, and a third "in the Russian style," at the Executive Mansion, under the auspices of Governor MORGAN. It was not known up to the hour of dinner which of the three Mr. LINCOLN would partake of. Some ardent Republicans thought ingeniously of preserving the party by forcing the President to eat all three! There was another compromise suggested, viz: that CREELEY (who had stuck to the side of the President, all the way down) should eat one dinner; - WHEED (who had come on to stop the indiscreet speaking of the Rail splitter) should devour the other; and the guest take the third.

Then who should make the welcoming speech in the name of the State? That was another question. The House insisted on Speaker LITTLEBROWN, as the presiding officer of the Joint Conference. The Senate claimed that its temporary presiding officer, Senator LAPHAM, should fill the chair! This was also settled by a compromise; and both Houses agreed that Senator COLFIS should assume the office, and, presiding over the two Houses, should, in the name of the State, welcome the distinguished guest. The Senator thus selected, is not only the leading Democrat of the Legislature, but the author of that eloquent invective against Gov. MORGAN, which, virtually impeaching him, has electrified the State by the boldness and directness of its charges, and which has received the silent acquiescence of the Republicans of both Houses! Nothing could mark the bitterness of the controversy more than the fact that the Republican majority, in both Houses, withdrew their presiding officers to make place for a Democrat thus fresh from the impeachment of Gov. MORGAN! Indeed, it is acknowledged that neither the Senatorial question nor any other controversy, past or present, in the Republican party, was ever carried to such an extreme of bitterness and hate, as this one, as to who should have the custody of the President elect.

Mayor THACHER welcomed the guest on the part of the city; so that the honors and duties of the Reception fell upon two Democrats - a significant result! It was well done by them, and well received by Mr. LINCOLN.

Mr. LINCOLN's remarks, in reply, were not inappropriate, though he let out some of his "irrepressible" tendency to wag-gery in an allusion, of ill-timed levity, to the proverbial reputation of the New York Legislature. But was it astonishing when one of the body had, that very morning, been arrested for demanding bribes?

Mr. LINCOLN's appearance is different from that which the engravings and descriptions of the canvass gave the idea of. His face indicates more intelligence and less character. His frame is tall, but far from stalwart or robust. He looked nervous, and worn, and anxious, and irresolute. It was easy to realise, as the Republican crowd gathered round, and followed him with vulpine eagerness, how thankful he might be if he escaped the fate of HARRISON, who was killed in thirty days, and of TAYLOR, who fell a sacrifice in a year to the same ravenous gang!

The Republicans believe that Mr. LINCOLN will side with that section of his party into whose hands he falls; that he has no character of his own, and that not merely his patronage and his favors, but his policy will be dictated by the clique which shall get the possession of him. This is why CREELEY sticks to his side; this is the secret of the success of CAMERON's enemies; it is upon this that SEWARD relies; and it is on this that the struggle here and on his route, and at the Capital, is to be directed. Mr. LINCOLN, as he pursues his dizzy and devious course to Washington, does not know into whose hands he is to fall, or what is to be his policy. Heaven grant that he may happen into the hands of those who have the sense to avert the last of calamities, a Civil War.

We are sorry that the President elect could not have sought out his welcome at the hands of the People, irrespective of party. He would have profited by it. He would have learned that they prize Peace, the Union, and the Constitution of our Fathers, better than any platform of any party. The Graces of Hospitality, instead of the Furies of political Hate, would have pealed over their welcome.

It would be an imperfect narration of this Odyssey, not to say that the Illinoisian accepted the dinner-invitation of Gov. MORGAN, "with a proviso" that it was to be private and not official. We trust that the "brilliant staff" was present, that good digestion waited on appetite and health on both, and the bounteous BIAIRRE on all three.

RESIDENT LINCOLN AT ALBANY.

reception by Mayor Thatcher, the Common Council, Military and Citizens—His Welcome at the Capitol by Mayor Colvin, on behalf of the Legislature—Remarks of Gov. Morgan, progress from Buffalo to Albany.

The President elect left Buffalo Monday morning at a quarter before 6 o'clock, escorted by the local committees, the military and a large number of citizens. The car (provided by the Central road) for the President was gorgeously fitted up, with bayonet tables, mirrors and carpets. The armchairs were in fine taste. The locomotive was decorated with flags, and noised off, in grand style, on the moment.

Through the several villages, even where the train did not stop, guns were fired and cheers given by assembled crowds.

The first stop was at Batavia—five minutes. Ten thousand people were present, and Mr. Lincoln had but a moment to thank them for their attentions.

A committee of the Common Council and citizens of Rochester was on the train, and on reaching that city, the train was stopped at the street crossing, and the committee escorted the President to the balcony of the Wadsworth Hotel, where he was welcomed by the mayor and ten thousand people. He responded very briefly; when, amid a salute from a cannon on Falls field, the President re-embarked, and the train dashed forward at 7:50, drawn by the locomotive "Dean Richmond," elegantly decorated for the occasion.

Large crowds were assembled on the track at Albany, Lyons, Clyde, &c., but no stop was made (except for about three minutes at each) until Syracuse was reached at ten o'clock. A platform had been erected at the head of the depot, and from this point Mr. Lincoln was introduced to the vast crowd by Mayor Colvin, and made a brief but appropriate response.

The distance between Syracuse and Utica was made without stoppages—52 miles in less than an hour.

At Utica (which was reached fifteen minutes ahead of time) the reception was very brief, but enthusiastic and pleasant; and at Herkimer, the Falls, St. Johnsville, Fonda, Amsterdam, &c., everybody seemed to be out to see the President in pass, and get a glimpse of the President. So at Schenectady, which was passed at 1:55.

The train reached West Albany at 2:20, and a salute of twenty-one guns, from the observatory grounds, was fired by Archibald Munroe, the same official who fired the salute at the execution of John Brown. The coincidence suggested painful thoughts, and was the only thing that marred the pleasure of the occasion.

On the same train were the Senate and Assembly Committees, and the Common Council members, with Akl. James I. Johnson as chairman.

The cars stopped at the Broadway crossing 25 minutes past 2. A platform had been erected by the Central Railroad Company, for the accommodation of the party, and the space kept clear by the Police. When the train came in sight, the engine gaily decked with flags, and loud and enthusiastic shouts were sent up by the thousands.

A locomotive drawing the special train was "Erastus Corning, Junior," a new and handsome one. Only two carriages were attached, and they were completely filled. Some delay occurred, the military not having reached the ground in time, and the people gave vent to their impatience by repeated cries of "Come out on the platform," "Get off the cars!" "Show us the Rail Splitter!" "Trot out Old Abe!" and the like. At last the music of the military was heard, and the 25th Regiment, led by Bryan commanding, marched on the ground. They took up their station, clearing the platform and opening a pathway for the President elect and his party to the carriages.

When these preliminary arrangements were completed, Mayor Thatcher appeared upon the platform of the cars and was there joined by Mr. Lincoln, who was greeted warmly by the expectant crowd, and bowed his acknowledgments. Descending from the cars to the platform, the President elect was welcomed to the city by Mayor Thatcher, as follows.

MAYOR THATCHER'S ADDRESS.

MR. LINCOLN. In behalf of the Common Council and the Citizens of Albany, I have the honor to tender to you a cordial welcome to our city. We trust that you will accept the welcome we tender, not simply as a tribute of respect to the high office you are called to fill, but as a testimony of the good will of our citizens without distinction of party, and as an expression of their appreciation of your eminent personal worth, and their confidence in your patriotism. We are aware that your previous arrangements with the State authorities, and the brevity of your stay, will compel us to forego the pleasure of extending to you, on the part of the city, a more elaborate and more befitting hospitality; but we are happy to know that His Excellency the Governor and the Senators and Representatives of the Legislature are about to receive you as a guest of the Empire State; and in so doing they will represent the kind regards of the whole people, as well as of the citizens of the capital. Permit me, therefore, to greet you in the name of our citizens, and to repeat the assurance of a most cordial welcome.

MR. LINCOLN'S REPLY.

Mr. Lincoln, in a somewhat low but steady voice replied as follows:

Mr. Mayor—I can hardly appropriate to myself the flattering terms in which you commend the tender of this reception as personal to myself. I most gratefully accept the hospitality tendered to me, and will not detain you with any extended remarks at this time. I presume that in the two or three courses through which I shall have to go, I shall have to repeat somewhat, and I will therefore only again express to you my thanks for this kind reception.

At the close of his remarks, which, from the noise and confusion, were audible only to those in the immediate vicinity, the party proceeded to the carriages provided by the committee.

The President with Mayor Thatcher, Senator Ferry and Mr. Ball, of the Assembly, rode in a very handsome barouche, drawn by four fine bay horses, and furnished from the livery of Mr. Thomas Wilson. The committees and the President's suite were accommodated in five elegant open barouches furnished by Slawson's very, and all drawn by handsome bay horses.

The procession took its way up Broadway and State street direct to the Capitol, the whole route being crowded with citizens, and the windows of the houses presenting an attractive array of Albany beauty. From many residences flags were displayed in profusion, but in one or two instances the bad taste of partisanship made itself apparent. Across

with the inscription, "Welcome to the Capital of the Empire State—No more Compromises!" On State street, a banner was displayed from the Young Men's Christian Association rooms, with the inscription, "We will Pray for You—The Defender of the Constitution as it is!"

Along the line of procession, the greetings of the citizens were most cordial throughout, and the ladies waived their salutations and smiled welcomes with pleasing liberality.

In the Capitol Park an immense concourse

of people were gathered, and the task of the military and police in preserving anything like order, and in clearing the way for the President elect and his party, was by no means easy or agreeable. At length the Capitol was reached, when Mr. Lincoln was at once escorted to the Executive Chamber. There were present in the room when he entered, Gov. Morgan; Hon. Ira Harris, U. S. Senator elect; Hon. David R. Floyd Jones, Secretary of State; Hon. James M. Cook, Bank Superintendent; Hon. H. H. Van Dyck, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Comptroller Dennison; Mr. Barnes, Head of the Insurance Depot; Mr. Parmelee, Canal Appraiser; Harvey Kidd; Mr. Charles Hughes, Clerk of Court of Appeals; Adjutant General Reed; Commissary General Welch; Inspector General Jackson; Col. Morgan, Aid-de-Camp to the Governor; Quarter Master Van Vechten, and Major Libby.

Mr. Lincoln was accompanied by the Senate and Assembly Committees, and the Committee of the Common Council. He was briefly introduced to the Governor by Mr. Ball, Chairman of the Assembly Committee.

Gov. Morgan shook Mr. Lincoln long and cordially by the hand, and said: "Mr. Lincoln, I am glad to take you by the hand." Mr. Lincoln replied: "And I am very glad to meet you, Governor." Gov. Morgan then inquired: "How have you stood the fatigue of the journey?" To which Mr. Lincoln replied: "Well, Governor, better than I expected." The Governor then conducted Mr. Lincoln out of the Chamber to the top of the Capitol steps, where he was greeted by a perfect roar of applause, the people rushing forward to obtain a sight of his countenance, and for a time defying the efforts of soldiers and police to keep the line.

Mr. Lincoln gazed round upon the immense crowd, for the whole park was filled with people and scores of men and boys had taken up their stations in the trees, in apparent amazement at its vastness, and, turning to the Governor, said, "Do you think we can make these people hear us?" Gov. Morgan replied with a dubious shake of the head, and made one or two efforts, by waving his hat, to still the noise of the multitude, but in vain.

The hoarse roar of the people, the shouts and remonstrances of the soldiers and police, the clashing of bayonets and the breaking of glass—for several panes were smashed in the pressure—made unitedly a din and confusion that rendered the speeches that followed more dumb-show, except to those in the immediate vicinity of the speakers.

GOVERNOR MORGAN'S SPEECH

Gov. MORGAN then welcomed the President elect, as follows:

HONORED SIR—Chosen as you have been to the highest and most responsible office in the nation or on the globe, and journeying as you are to the Federal Capital to enter upon your public duties, you have kindly turned aside upon the invitation of the Legislature, for the purpose of a brief sojourn at the Capital.

New York. On behalf of the people, irrespective of political opinion, it is my privilege to greet you, and to extend to you a cordial welcome. If you have found your fellow-citizens in larger numbers elsewhere, you have not found and I think will not find warmer hearts, or a people more faithful to the Union, the Constitution and the laws, than you will meet in this time honored city of the Capitol. The people thank you, sir, for the opportunity you have thus afforded them of manifesting to you their great respect, no less for yourself, personally, than for the high office you are destined so soon to fill.

Loud cheers followed Gov. Morgan's address, when Mr. Lincoln replied as follows:

MR. LINCOLN'S REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR.

Mr. Governor—I was pleased to receive an invitation to visit the Capital of the great Empire State of this Nation on my way to the Federal Capital.

And I now thank you, Mr. Governor, and you, the people of this Capital, and the people of the State of New York, for this most hearty and magnificent welcome.

If I am not at fault, the great Empire State, at this time, contains a greater population than did the United States of America at the time she achieved her National Independence. I am proud to be invited to pass through your Capitol and meet them as I have now the honor to do. I am nettled by your Governor, that this reception is given without distinction of party, and I accept it the more gladly because it is so.

Almost all men in this country, and in any country where freedom of thought is tolerated, attach themselves to political parties. It is but ordinary charity to attribute this to the fact that in so attaching himself to the party which his judgment prefers, the citizen believes he thereby promotes the best interest of the whole country. But when an election is passed, it is altogether befitting a free people, that, until the next election, they should be as one people.

The reception you give me this day is not given to me personally—it should not be so—but as the representative, for the time being, of the majesty of the nation.

If the election had resulted in the choice of either of the other candidates, the same cordiality should have been extended to him, as is extended to me this day—in testimony of the devotion of the people to the Constitution, and to the whole Union, and of their desire to perpetuate our institutions and to hand them down in their perfection to succeeding generations.

I have neither the voice nor the strength to address you at any greater length. I beg you will accept my most grateful thanks for this devotion—not to me, but to this great, glorious and free country.

Loud and repeated cheers accompanied and followed the delivery of this speech, and Mr. Lincoln, bowing to the crowd, was at once conducted by the Committees to the Assembly Chamber.

CAZENOVIA, N. Y., Feb. 13.

Editors *Atlas & Argus*

Allow one of your readers, as an individual of the twenty-seven millions of "white folks" in the country, to protest against the proposed plan for a National Convention to amend the Constitution.

The only safe way, the most prompt and practicable way, to accomplish proper amendments, is by their adoption in Congress and their ratification by the States. If a convention be called, every petty member will feel impelled to immortalize himself by putting his mark on the Constitution; every unscrupulous schemer will run to it with his pet whimsey and seek its engratting on the organic law; modifications philanthropic, financial, theological, and of every other kind, will be urged; and the general tinkering will make more holes than it will stop. Witness, as an instance, the

"amendment" of our State Constitution—called mainly to place financial safeguards on the instrument—the Convention spoilt the Senate, bugled the Judiciary, and did more mischief than good. Fifty new questions would arise in a general Convention—the rules of representation, the rights of smaller States, and many other topics, would furnish materials for a worse quarrel than we now have.

The Constitution is right enough, save in the new questions which have arisen out of an expansion of the Nation not foreseen by its founders. The control of newly acquired common territory, the security of weaker States against the growth of others, and the restraint of geographical parties, are the only material points at issue,—and upon them there is really little disagreement among all reasonable men, of whatever party or section. Let Congress prepare proper amendments on the "Border State" basis, or something analogous to it, and let the people have a chance to act on them; and I am entirely mistaken if they are not adjusted immediately, to the instant satisfaction of all but the few seceding States, and a very few of the reddest and bluest Republicans of the North. To deal with these is a subsequent question; and in any way a comparatively easy one, when once the real questions which divide honest and moderate men every where are settled. That once accomplished, the remainder will probably settle itself, either by amicable division of the extreme States, or amicable reunion. It may be promptly and safely done by Congress and the States; but if the present troubles are referred to a general Convention, they will be only the seed of an hundred more. L.

The Presidential Progress.

THE CROWD ON LINCOLN.—The Cincinnati *Commercial* says its outside reporter heard some queer talk while the Lincoln procession was passing the streets, the President elect bowing rights and left. One old lady, who prided herself on having seen "a power of Presidents" in her time, was terribly exercised about the soldiers. "Ef I was a man," said she, with some asperity, "and was elected President, and couldn't go on to Washington an' take my seat, 'thout bein' guarded like Linkum, I'd stay at home." "Do you believe," inquired one man of his comrade, with an appear-

ance of great earnestness and some incredulity, "that he ever ablit a million of mile in one day?"—*Buffalo Courier*.

THE LARGEST FUNERAL.—On the day the President elect passed through our city in procession, a gentleman of our acquaintance met with a friend, whom he accosted as follows:

Harry—Halloa, John, where have you been? John—I have just come from the corner of Fourth and Vine streets, where I saw the largest funeral procession for our country that was ever before looked upon by an American citizen.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*.

JEFFERSON'S VIEWS OF LINCOLN'S ROYAL PROGRESS.—I confess, that I am not reconciled to the idea of a Chief Magistrate parading himself through the several States as an object of public gaze, and in quest, of applause, which to be valuable, should be purely voluntary. I had rather acquire silent good will by a faithful discharge of my duties, than owe expressions of it to my putting myself in the way of receiving them.—JEFFERSON.

1861

Atlanta, Feb. 20, 1861

LATEST NEWS

Midnight Dispatches.

Mr. Lincoln's Journey to New York.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.

At every station between Albany and this city some exhibition of enthusiasm was made, and to-day's journey has been a continuous ovation. At Poughkeepsie there was immense crowd of people. The President was welcomed by the Mayor, and responded, expressing his gratification at seeing such an immense audience, and of the noble demonstration made in honor of the man who, at this time, humbly but earnestly represents the majority of the nation. This reception, like all others, emanated from all the different parties, and indicates the earnest desire on the part of the whole people, without regard to political differences, to save—not the country, because the country will save itself—but to save the institutions of the country, these institutions under which, for the last three-quarters of a century, we have grown to be a great, intelligent and happy people—the greatest, most intelligent, and happiest on earth. It indicates that the whole people are willing to make common cause for this object.

At the close of his speech, and after cheer went up.

A brief stop was made at Fishkill and Poughkeepsie. In response to Judge Nelson's welcome at the latter place, Mr. Lincoln said "If I can only be as generously and unanimously sustained, as these demonstrations indicate, I shall not fail. I trust that in the course I shall pursue, I shall be sustained, not only by the party that elected me, but by the patriotic people of the whole country."

At Sing Sing and Tunkers cannon were fired, and there was every demonstration of enthusiasm.

MR. LINCOLN IN NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.

The train reached this city on time. At the 31st Street Depot the President elect and party left the cars. Mrs. Lincoln and children were driven in a close carriage to the Astor House. Mr. Lincoln and mine occupying eleven carriages, then rode to the Astor House. All along the route the streets were packed with people, but the party had no difficulty in making their progress, owing to the excellent police arrangements. It is estimated that 250,000 people witnessed the future President.

There was continuous cheering from the depot to the hotel. At the Astor House there was an immense assemblage and cheering. The streets were all decorated with flags, and all the hotels, except the N. Y. Hotel, and all newspaper offices but the *Day Book* displayed the American flag. The shipping in the harbor also hoisted hugging during the day, and the city, generally, displayed a holiday appearance.

Mr. Lincoln dined in private, receiving no calls until evening.

MORE OF PRES. LINCOLN'S SPEECHES.

GRAND DEMONSTRATION AT NEW YORK CITY.

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I did not say that in the recent election the people did the wisest thing they could; indeed, I do not think they did; but I do say in accepting the great trust committed to me, which I do with a determination to endeavor to prove worthy of it, I must rely upon the people of the whole country for support, and with their sustaining aid even I, humble as I am, cannot fail to carry the ship of State safely through the storm. He again thanked the audience and bade them farewell. At the close of his address cheer after cheer went up.

Brief speeches were made at Fishkill and Peekskill. In response to Judge Nelson's welcome at the latter place, Mr. Lincoln said:

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The Republican clubs of this city waited upon Mr. Lincoln this evening, in the hall of the Astor House. Delafield Smith, Esq., addressed Mr. Lincoln in a speech of welcome, in which he alluded to the fact that the hall had only been occupied on three occasions for the reception of public men—once for Webster, once for Clay, and now for Abraham Lincoln.

Mr. Lincoln replied as follows:

"I did not understand when I was brought into this room that I was to make a speech. It was not intimated to me that I was about to enter a room where Webster and Clay had made speeches, and where in my position I might be expected to do something like those men, or something unworthy of myself or my audience. I have been

occupying a position of silence since the Presidential election, avoiding public speaking and public writing. I have thought, upon full consideration, that it was the proper course for me to pursue. (Applause.)

I have not kept silent from any party wantonness or from any indifference to the anxiety which pervades the minds of men in regard to the threatening aspect of the political affairs of the country. I have kept silence for the reason that I supposed it was peculiarly proper that I should do so until the time arrived when, according to the custom of the country, I should speak officially. I allude to the custom of the President elect, at the time of entering upon his office, to submit his views upon political questions to Congress. (Cries of "That's right.") I did not suppose that while the political drama, at present being enacted in this country, is so rapidly shifting its scenes and changing every hour, forbidding any anticipation with any degree of certainty today of what we shall see tomorrow, that it was peculiarly fitting I should see all, up to the last minute, before I should take a position which I might, through some change of scene, be compelled to abandon.

I repeat what I have before stated, that when the time does come for me to act I shall take the ground that I believe to be right; (applause) that I think is right for the North, the South, the East and for the West, for the whole country, (cries of "Good" and cheers and applause), and in doing so I hope to feel no necessity pressing upon me to say anything in conflict with the constitution, in conflict with the Union of these States, in conflict with the perpetuation of the liberties of this people, or I may add, in contradistinction with anything I have ever given you reason to expect from me. (Cheers.) Now, my friends, have I said enough? (cries of "no, no.") There appears to be a difference of opinion between you and me, and I shall insist on deciding the question for myself.

Long applause and laughter followed this rally, during which Mr. Lincoln left the platform and proceeded to the upper end of the hall, where he shook hands with a large number of those present and then retired.

Crowds danced attendance around the hotel until a late hour, cheering and endeavoring to get a sight of the next President.

BOSTON ADV

MR. LINCOLN'S OFFICIAL RECEPTION IN
NEW YORK.

B. T. ... 1861
New York, 20th. Mayor Wood formally received Mr. Lincoln at 10 o'clock this forenoon in the Governor's room, City Hall. Mayor Wood said:

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Coming into office with a dismembered government to reconstruct, a disconnected and hostile people to reconcile, it will require high patriotism and elevated comprehension of the whole country, with its varied interests, opinions and prejudices, and to so conduct public affairs as to bring it back again to its former harmonious, consolidated and prosperous condition.

I refer to this topic because New York is deeply interested in the present political divisions which sorely afflict her people; her material interests are paralyzed and her commercial greatness endangered; she is the child of the American Union, and has grown up under its maternal care; been fostered by its paternal bounty, and we fear if the Union dies its present supremacy lies.

To you, therefore, chosen under the forms of the Constitution, as the head of the Confederacy, we look for the restoration of fraternal relations between the States, only to be accomplished by careful and conciliatory means, aided by Almighty God.

Mr. Lincoln responded as follows:

Mr. Mayor—It is with feelings of deep gratitude I make my acknowledgements for the reception which has been extended to me in this great commercial city of New York.

I can but remember that such a reception is rendered by a people who do not by a majority agree with me in political sentiments. It is more grateful on this account, because it is an evidence that in the support of the great principles that underlie our government the people are nearly or quite unanimous.

In regard to the difficulties which encompass us at this time, and of which your Honor has thought fit to speak so becomingly and so justly, I suppose, I can only say that I agree with the sentiments expressed by the Mayor.

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Mr. Lincoln reached New York last evening, where he met with a grand reception. The telegraph gives a sketch of his remarks there and at other places along the route.

The Legislative Committee on the Police

THE PRESIDENTIAL TRIP.

MORE OF PRES. LINCOLN'S SPEECHES.

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Loud applause and laughter followed this sally, during which Mr. Lincoln left the platform and proceeded to the upper end of the hall, where he shook hands with a large number of those present and then retired.

Crowds danced attendance around the hotel until a late hour, cheering and endeavoring to get a sight of the next President.

Twenty pickpockets have been arrested at Buffalo, who were in attendance on the Lincoln reception at that city. Upwards of \$1000 were found in their possession, besides notes and certificates of deposit.

At the reception of Mr. Lincoln in New York, at the corner of 8th avenue and 23d street, a young man appeared out on the stone capping of the cornice of the first story of the building. He maintained his precarious position by holding on to a window sill with one hand, while with the other he vigorously flourished a rusty old axe. This incident caused Mr. Lincoln and the crowd to laugh quite heartily.

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NEW YORK.**

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BOSTON ADV

EVENING TRANSCRIPT.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEB. 20, 1861.

SECOND EDITION.

THE TOUR of the President elect through the great West and the Empire State—the spontaneous outpouring of the masses—the hearty outbursts of loyalty from all parties in the community—the universal “God speed” from every hamlet, town and city on the route—the unanimous wish that he may conduct the Government safely through its present trials, and mete out to treason its just deserts, are among the noteworthy signs of the times. The number of men, in the Northern States, who sympathize with Jefferson Davis and his “confederates,” is very much less than at other trying periods of the country’s history, enrolled themselves in the ranks of the enemies of republican institutions. The teeming populations of the North are loyal to the Constitution and the Union, and will sustain Abraham Lincoln in all legitimate measures for their conservation.

THE PRESIDENT IN NEW YORK.

Mayor Wood's Address of Welcome—Mr. Lincoln's Reply—Incidents of the Interview.

New York, Feb. 20.

The President elect was formally received by Mayor Wood, at the City Hall. The ceremonies took place in the Governor's room punctually at 11 o'clock. As early as 10 o'clock the police, under the immediate superintendence of Deputy Carpenter, took their station at the City Hall, and a space was enclosed by chains, leading to the stairs, within which none but those having the privilege of entry were admitted. At half-past ten a large crowd had assembled in the Park awaiting the arrival of the President elect.

A few minutes before 11, Mayor Wood, accompanied by the members of the Common Council and of the city press, took up their position in the Governor's room, and shortly afterwards, the shouts of the people outside announced that Mr. Lincoln had reached the City Hall. He soon appeared, accompanied by the Committee of the Common Council and was introduced by the Chairman, Ald. Cornell, to Mayor Wood. The Mayor stood on one side of a table, Mr. Lincoln took up a position immediately opposite him. The appearance of the two men was most striking. The Chief Magistrate of the city looked steadily at his distinguished visitor, and never moved his eyes from him during the delivery of two addresses. The Chief Magistrate of the Union, taller by the head than the Mayor, looked calm and collected, but did not return the gaze that was fixed upon him.

MAYOR WOOD'S WELCOME.

Mr. Wood, in a clear and distinct voice, spoke as follows:

Mr. Lincoln—As the Mayor of New York, it becomes my duty to extend to you an official welcome, in behalf of the corporation. In doing so, permit me to say that this city has never offered hospitality to a man clothed with more exalted powers, or resting under graver responsibilities, than those which circumstances have devolved upon you. Coming into office with a dismembered government to reconstruct, and a disconnected and hostile people to reconcile, it will require a high patriotism, and an elevated comprehension of the whole country, and its varied interests, opinions and prejudices, to so conduct public affairs as to bring it back again to its former exalted condition. It I refer to this topic, it is because New York is deeply interested.

The present political division, has severely afflicted her people. All her material interests are paralyzed, her commercial greatness is endangered. She is the child of the American Union; she has grown up under its maternal care, and been fostered by its paternal bounty, and we fear that if the Union dies, the present supremacy of New York may perish with it. To you, therefore, chosen under the forms of the Constitution as the head of the Confederacy, we look for a restoration of fraternal relations between the States, only to be accomplished by peaceful and conciliatory means, aided by the wisdom of Almighty God.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY.

When Mayor Wood ceased speaking, a murmur of half-suppressed applause, and Mr. Lincoln replied readily, and with a firm, slow utterance, as follows:—

Mr. Mayor—It is with feelings of deep gratitude that I make my acknowledgments for the reception that has been extended to me in this great commercial city of New York. I can but remember that such reception is tendered by a people who do not, by a majority, agree with me in political sentiments. It is the more grateful on this account, because it is an evidence that in support of the great principles that underlie our Government the people are

difficulties which encompass us at this time, and of which your honor has thought fit to speak so becomingly and so justly, as I suppose. I can only say that I agree with the sentiment expressed by the Mayor.

In my devotion to the Union, I hope I am not unlike any man in the Union, but in the wisdom necessary to conduct affairs as to secure the preservation of the Union, I fear that I may be deficient, and that too great confidence may have been reposed in me. I am sure, however, that I at least bring a heart devoted to the Union. There is nothing which could ever bring me to consent willingly to the destruction of that Union, under which not alone the great commercial city of New York, but the whole country, has acquired greatness, unless it should be the loss of that for which the Union itself was made.

As I understand it, the ship is made for the carriage and preservation of the cargo, and so long as the ship can be saved with the cargo, it should never be abandoned. We should never ease in our efforts to save it, so long as it can be done without throwing overboard the passengers, and the cargo. So long as the prosperity and liberty of this people can be preserved in the Union, it will be my purpose, and shall be my effort, at all times, to preserve that Union. And now, Mr. Mayor, again thanking you for the reception which has been given me, allow me to close my remarks.

The utmost order and silence were preserved during the delivery of Mr. Lincoln's reply. At its close, members of the Common Council and of the State Government were introduced to the President elect, and then the police regulations below were relaxed, the restraining chains removed, and the people allowed to invade the City Hall, with a rush, and to fight and scramble their way to the door of the Governor's Room. There, two or three policemen were stationed, whose duty soon became extremely arduous, the crowd bearing them forward into the room.

The noise and confusion inside and outside was beyond description. The jam was tremendous. The scene inside the door was ludicrous in the extreme. Superintendent Kennedy exerting himself to the utmost to beat back the crowd who were admitted at the door at the head of the main stairs, and found egress through the ante-chamber at the other end of the room. Men were pushed in by main force, out of the crowd, by the Police, unable to help themselves, with coats torn and hats demolished and lost.

In the heat of the excitement a female made her appearance, and was dragged, through the door, with hoops and bonnet materially damaged. When introduced to Mr. Lincoln, she told him she was from Illinois, and though she had experienced a rough voyage, she would go through a lighter squall to see him.

The crowd was a molley one, ragged and broad-cloth being indiscriminately mixed, and did go into the room, side by side, to shake the Presidential hand. Ex-Mayor Harper came through the ordeal, and shaking Mr. Lincoln by the hand, admitted that their "Pictorial" had done him injustice.

Immediately after the Ex-Mayor, came one of the assistants of the unwashed citizens of New York, and then the crowd continued to pour in until 1 o'clock, when the audience closed, and Mr. Lincoln returned to his apartments at the Astor, leaving a large number of the citizens of the city with hands still unshaken.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Washington, Feb. 19.

Dispatches from the Montgomery Convention received to-day urge the Border State men in the Peace Congress "not to consent to compromise of any kind."

A number of Democratic Senators in caucus to-day resolved to make no fictitious opposition to the tariff bill.

The result of the Missouri election creates great excitement among Secessionists, they consider it an indication that Missouri will remain in the Union under all circumstances.

The District troops will be kept under orders Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The Union men in Baltimore are making great preparation to receive Mr. Lincoln.

A delegation has gone North to meet him.

E. Kingman, formerly member of Congress from South Carolina, received a letter to-day, stating positively that Fort Sumter will be taken, at whatever cost, before the 4th of March. The same letter also states, that South Carolina will demand from the Montgomery Convention a guarantee of free trade, and that she and other Cotton States will oppose any import duties higher than six per cent.

Mr. Brown, late editor of the Constitution, has been deputized by the seceding States to inform the Federal Government of the election of Jefferson Davis. He will not be recognized.

Mr. Lincoln will occupy, temporarily, the dwelling on Franklin Square, lately occupied by the South Carolina Commissioners.

Recent proceedings in Montgomery have led the Border States to talk of a separate confederacy for themselves, in case they secede.

The Republicans of both Houses are ready to vote unanimously in favor of a National Convention to settle the difficulties.

1861
PRES. LINCOLN'S TOUR. *New York, Feb. 20.*
Before leaving City Hall this forenoon, Mr. Lincoln appeared on the balcony, and in response to loud calls said: "Friends, I do not appear for the purpose of making a speech. I design to make no speech; I came merely to see you and to allow you to see me; I have to say to you, as I have said frequently to persons on my journey, that in the sight I suppose I have the best of the bargain. Assuming that you are all for the Constitution, the Union (cheers), and the perpetual liberties of this people, I bid you farewell."

On his return to the Astor House, Mr. Lincoln had interviews with Hamilton Fish, Col. Fremont, and about one hundred others.

Mr. Lincoln visited Barnum's Museum in the afternoon and tonight attended the opera. He declined an invitation to visit Brooklyn. He leaves at a quarter past eight tomorrow morning, stopping at Jersey City, Newark and Trenton, en route to Philadelphia.

Mr. Lincoln will be accompanied at midnight tonight, at the Astor House.

Newark, N. J., 20th. Villainous posters were displayed today, calling upon the workmen to attend at the depot upon Mr. Lincoln's arrival, and demonstrate their differences with him. The Republicans have resolved to form a cavalcade and escort the President-elect through the city.

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BOSTON ADV



1. VIEW OF ST. PAUL'S, BARNUM'S MUSEUM AND ASTOR HOUSE. Published by Henry Hoff, 180 William St., New York, 1850. Green tint. Lithograph $6\frac{1}{4}$ by 9 inches plus margins. \$65.

Museum was then being extended so that the lecture hall would seat three thousand. Barnum was occupied in arranging the American tour of Jenny Lind in 1850, although she did not sing at the Museum but at Castle Garden. The Park, New York's most fashionable theater, formerly occupied a site at the left, a little beyond the confines of the view, but had burned in 1848. When John Jacob Astor engaged Isaiah Rogers of Boston, who had made a revolution in hotel architecture with his Tremont House, to build a hotel for him in New York, he called it first the Park Hotel and there are early prints of the Astor House showing it with this name.

We also have from the Hoff views of New York:

New York Institution for the Blind. Green tint. \$25.

City Hall. With gold border. Colored. \$45.

Croton Water Reservoir. With gold border. Colored. \$45.

U. S. Naval Hospital. Without border. Colored. \$25.

Odd Fellows' Hall. Without border. Colored. \$25.

~~B. Transcript - Feb 21, 1861~~
STRONG ANTI-COMPROMISE SPEECHES IN
THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

The French Minister and the Secessionists.

**The Southern Confederacy not to be Recognized
by the European Nations.**

MOVEMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT ELECT.

New York, Feb. 21. Special despatches from Washington say that Messrs. Field, Smith and Wade made strong anti-compromise speeches in the Peace Conference yesterday.

Advices from Richmond say that the force bill has created great excitement in the Virginia Convention.

The French Minister at Washington has been sending reports to his Government favorable to the secessionists, which conflict with those sent by the consuls, and Napoleon has demanded an explanation.

The Russian Minister favors the secessionists. Government despatches from Europe announce that it is the fixed policy not to recognize a Southern Confederacy until it is recognized by the United States.

The Armstrong Court of Inquiry has dissolved. It is understood that the Court will censure him for not turning over his troops to Lieutenant Slemmer.

A despatch to the Herald says that Gen. Scott has been informed that Fort Sumter will be attacked today, and also that he has received a despatch to the effect that Fort Sumter will not be attacked before the 4th of March.

Mr. Hamlin arrived in this city last evening, and dined with G. E. Davidson, Messrs Raymond, Draper, Evarts, Burton, Weed and others.

Mr. Lincoln visited the opera last evening. At midnight a serenade was given to him and Mr. Hamlin by the Wide Awake and Republican Clubs. Mr. Hamlin responded to the serenade.

Messrs. Lincoln and Hamlin and wives received their friends at the Astor House to a late hour in the evening.

The President elect and suite left this morning for Philadelphia. On reaching Jersey City a salute was fired by steamship Africa. There were large crowds at the depot.

MR. LINCOLN AT THE ASTOR HOUSE.

MR. LINCOLN, the President-elect, arrived at New York on Tuesday, 19th, as announced in the programme of his journey. An enormous crowd lined the streets to gaze at him as he passed. When he reached the Astor House there must have been some five thousand people assembled at the door, and they soon gave audible evidence of their wish to hear the distinguished visitor. With his usual good nature, Mr. Lincoln stepped out of a window, in company with a member of the Common Council, and, standing on the balcony, addressed them as follows:

"FELLOW-CITIZENS,—I have stepped before you merely in compliance with what appeared to be your wish, and with no purpose of making a speech. In fact, I do not propose making a speech this afternoon. I could not be heard by any but a very small fraction of you at best, but what is still worse than that is, that I have nothing just now to say worth your hearing. [Loud applause.] I beg you to believe that I do not now refuse to address you through any disposition to disoblige you, but the contrary. But at the same time I beg of you to excuse me for the present."

Mr. Lincoln then bowed again to the several gentlemen who were then presented to him, all of whom he cordially received.

HARPER'S WEEKLY.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1861.

*Albany Argus,
Feb. 4, 1915.*

LINCOLN'S JOURNEY IN THE SCHOOLS

STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
BULLETIN ON HIS TWO TRIPS
THROUGH ALBANY.

Was Here February 18, 1861, as Pres-
ident-elect, and His Body Laid
in State Here April 26,
1865.

Ten thousand schools in the State have received a special bulletin from the State education department calling the attention of the school children to the two historic journeys made by Abraham Lincoln, the first in 1861 and the second, which was covered by his lifeless body in 1865. The bulletin contains many interesting features of the martyred President's trips.

As President-elect, journeying from Springfield, Ill., to Washington to take the oath of office, Lincoln stopped in Albany, February 18, 1861, and addressing the Legislature, said:

"You have generously tendered me the support—the united support—of the great Empire State. For this, in behalf of the nation—in behalf of the present and future of the nation—in behalf of civil and religious liberty for all time to come, most gratefully do I thank you. I do not propose to enter into an explanation of any particular line of policy, as to our present difficulties, to be adopted by the incoming administration. I deem it just to you, to myself, to all, that I should see everything, that I should hear everything, that I should have every light that can be brought within my reach, in order that, when I do so speak, I shall have enjoyed every opportunity to take correct and true ground; and for this reason I do not propose to speak at this time of the policy of the government. But when the time comes, I shall speak, as well as I am able, for the good of the present and

future of this country—for the good both of the North and of the South—for the good of one and the other, and of all sections of the country. In the meantime, if we have patience, if we restrain ourselves, if we allow ourselves not to run off in a passion, I still have confidence that the Almighty, the Maker of the universe, will through the instrumentality of this great and intelligent people, bring us through this as he has through all the other difficulties of our country. Relying on this, I again thank you for this generous reception."

The Lincoln funeral train reached Albany April 26, 1865, and the body laid in State at the Capitol.

The Atlas and Argus of April 26, 1865, said:

"The funeral ceremonies of yesterday will long be remembered by the many thousands who witnessed them and the thousands more who participated in them. The day was all that could be asked, the pleasantest of all the spring days that have yet visited us. The remains of the lamented President had been placed in the Assembly chamber, and as we stated yesterday during the still hours of early morning, a sad procession moved through our streets to and from the Capitol. Aside from the slow tread of this procession, not a sound was to be heard in the streets. Every place of business remained closed; not a vehicle was to be seen passing through the streets, and never upon a Sabbath morning did the city present a stillness so complete."

RECALLS VISIT OF LINCOLN TO TROY IN 1861

Henry Sage Dermott, Former
Trojan, Shook Hands With
Great Emancipator.

February 19, 1861, Abraham Lincoln, on his way from his home in Springfield, Ill., to Washington for his first inauguration, spoke to Trojans for about 20 minutes from the rear platform of his train at the Union Station and one of Troy's former residents who remembers that day very vividly, since he was privileged to shake the Great Emancipator's hand, paid a visit to The Troy Times office today to relate the circumstances surrounding Mr. Lincoln's visit here. He is Henry Sage Dermott, who now lives at 544 Hudson Avenue, Albany.

Lincoln remained overnight February 18 at the Delevan House in Albany, located where the present Albany railroad station is now. There was no bridge from Albany to the east side of the river then and since it was not deemed advisable for the President of the United States to take a chance of crossing the ice he had to come to Troy in order to go down the east side.

He made the trip from Albany over the Albany Northern Railroad and was greeted here by Mayor Isaac McConihe, Jr., of Troy. Mr. Lincoln was accompanied by Governor Morgan and Mayor George H. Thacher of Albany, grandfather of Albany's present Executive, who had been his Albany hosts.

Trojans had been advised of his visit and a crowd, then estimated to be about 10,000, were on hand to see Mr. Lincoln. Mr. Dermott was a student at the school connected with St. Paul's Episcopal Church and he "ran away from school," to put it in his own words, in order to see Mr. Lincoln. He estimates that the crowd was made up, for the most part, of persons more than 20 years old and believes that there are few Trojans living who remember that day.

Mr. Dermott, for his 81 years, is very active and possesses a keen mind. He carries with him a diary he kept while a boy and under date of February 19, 1861, he has notes of Mr. Lincoln's visit here.

Among the former Trojan's prized possessions is an invitation from John M. and Mrs. Francis to their home to meet Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, who was a guest at the Francis home on Washington Park in 1870.

Lincoln Spoke In Peekskill Seventy Years Ago Today

Mrs. Alice Armstrong Hamilton, 84, Is the Only One Now Living Here of About 1,000 Persons Who Heard President-Elect's Address at Peekskill Station --- She Recalls the Afternoon When, As a Girl of 13, She Joined the Crowd to Listen to the Man from Illinois

Just seventy years ago today, late in the afternoon, as the sun was sinking back of old Dunderberg, a train pulled into the Peekskill station, bearing the President-elect of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, on his way to his inauguration in Washington. Mr. Lincoln paused as the train stopped to make a few remarks to the crowd of about 1,000 persons gathered at the station to welcome him.

Mr. Lincoln made the following brief speech:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have but a moment to stand before you, to listen to and return your kind greeting. I thank you for this reception and for the pleasant manner in which it is tendered to me, by our mutual friend*. I will say in a single sentence, in regard to the difficulties that lie before me and our beloved country, that if I can only be as generously and unanimously sustained, as the demonstrations I have witnessed indicate I shall be, I shall not fail; but without your sustaining hands I am sure that neither I, nor any other man, can hope to surmount these difficulties. I trust that in the course I shall pursue I shall be sustained, not only by the party that elected me, but by the patriotic people of the whole country.

*—Hon. William Nelson, who had introduced Mr. Lincoln to the audience.

At that time, Center Street now Park Street was a grass plot, Washington's headquarters were in the middle of Main Street, blacksmith shops, the general store, a postoffice and a few other stores made up the town proper.

South Street was paved with clay, Main Street with oyster shells, and Division Street with tan bark.

Mrs. Alice Armstrong Hamilton, of 725 Hudson Avenue, who was a girl of 13 in 1861, was one of the large company of Peekskill people which repaired to the railroad station on February 19, 1861, and awaited the arrival of the president-elect's special train. She is, so far as is known, the only one re-

maining of that company who is still living in Peekskill. Mrs. Annie Louise Anderson, mother of Gilbert H. Anderson, was also present at that time but she no longer lives in Peekskill but in Albany.

Mrs. Hamilton recalls seeing the tall form of Mr. Lincoln as he stood for a few minutes on the rear of the train before his audience of Peekskill people, although she was not near enough to hear every word distinctly.

The Friendly Town Association took note of the fact that today is the 70th anniversary of Lincoln's speaking in Peekskill and of Mrs. Hamilton's presence upon that occasion by presenting her, this morning with a bouquet of roses and an address of greeting.

She had always been active in temperance work, her father having been for many years the leader of the work of The Sons of Temperance in Peekskill. She is one of the oldest members of the local Women's Christian Temperance Union. During her childhood, she was a member of the old Second Presbyterian Church, but later affiliated with the First M. E.

Mrs. Hamilton's ancestors were among the original founders of Peekskill. Armstrong Avenue is named for her father and Field Street for her grandfather, Samuel Field.

The Friendly Town Association's address of greeting to Mrs. Hamilton was as follows:

**The Friendly Town Association, Inc.
Peekskill, N. Y.**

February 19, 1931.

Dear Mrs. Hamilton:

We esteem it an honor to greet one who seventy years ago today paid her tribute of respect to Abraham Lincoln by being present to greet him when he stopped here in Peekskill on his way to be inaugurated President of the United States.

You are, so far as we have been able to learn, the only one remaining of that large company of nearly a thousand people still living here.

To have seen Abraham Lincoln is a unique distinction. The memory of that day must be very precious to you. And to think that you were among the company of Peekskill

people who showed their loyalty to him by welcoming him in person at a time when all were not loyal to him must likewise be an ever present source of satisfaction.

But you have not only memories of one of the great men of all time. You have witnessed in the years that you have lived since that day some of the greatest events of the modern world.

You have seen steam ships displace sailing vessels on the water, the automobile take its place by the side of the railroad on land and the airplane coming to perfection as a means of travel by air. And you have seen the radio bring the people of the world together as never before, permitting them to listen to preachers, presidents, prime ministers and kings without stirring from the confines of their own homes.

You have seen America, fighting for her very existence under Lincoln, become the greatest nation of the earth, and in the greatest war of history save democracy for mankind.

You have seen the liquor traffic which Lincoln fought all his life legally outlawed in the nation he saved and his dream for its worldwide outlawry beginning to be realized. And you have done your part to bring this about by standing against it in this community.

You have seen the race which Lincoln freed make greater progress than any other race ever made in so short a time and its members become honored and useful citizens of the Republic.

Now, on the 7th anniversary of the day when Lincoln spoke in Peekskill, to be still living and able to recall that great event and to reflect that you are the only one left here of that great audience of Peekskill people who heard him and did him honor is one of those blessings vouchsafed to but few of the human race. It is not only a cause for thankfulness to the goodness of an overruling providence, it is a striking reminder that we of today are not so far away, after all, from the days when Lincoln lived.

You are a connecting link with those great days, bringing back to us as you do in such a fine way their great and stirring deeds.

You have lived in a momentous era of human history a good and useful life. We cherish your presence in our community. It is a privilege to have in our midst one who saw and did honor to the Great Emancipator. We express our hope that you may be spared many years of life among us.

Sincerely
**THE FRIENDLY TOWN
ASSOCIATION.**

MR. LINCOLN AT LITTLE FALLS AND HERKIMER.

Lincoln's birthday invariably brings out some new material regarding the Great Emancipator. It is surprising that so much new material should be forthcoming regarding him 70 years after his death. The Herkimer Evening Telegram of February 12th comes to hand with an interesting editorial and news article on President Lincoln's reception in the villages of Little Falls and Herkimer when he passed through there Feb. 18, 1861, en route from Springfield, Illinois, to Washington to assume the presidency. The speech at Herkimer seems not to have been preserved but there is a record in the files of the Little Falls Journal and Courier of his brief address at the station there.

President Lincoln's train arrived at Herkimer at ten minutes after noon of Feb. 18, 1861. It was greeted by the ringing of bells and the salute of cannon. A band played "Hail Columbia" and the report says that "in the throng were several hundred women and they waived handkerchiefs in unison."

Then Mr. Lincoln addressed the crowd from the rear platform of the train as follows:

"Ladies and Gentlemen; I appear before you merely for the purpose of greeting you, saying a few words and bidding you farewell. I can only say, as I have often said before, that I have no speech to make and no time to make one if I had; neither have I the strength to repeat a speech at all the places at which I stop, even though other circumstances were favorable. I am thankful for this opportunity of seeing you, and of allowing you to see me. (Applause). And in this, so far as regards the ladies, I think I have the best of the bargain. (Applause). I don't make that acknowledgement, however, to the gentlemen. (Laughter.) And now I believe I have really made my speech and am ready to bid you farewell when the train moves off."

Could any public man make a better impromptu speech today? It was just what we would expect from Lincoln.

It seems that the only man now living in Little Falls who recalls hearing Mr. Lincoln speak on his visit there is Victor Adams who is now 90 years of age. He was then a boy of 16 and he recalls the event clearly.

President Lincoln in Little Falls.

Reference to the trying days of '61, at the Memorial Day exercises last Wednesday in this city, recall the stopping here of President Lincoln on his journey from his home in Springfield to Washington. The Journal & Courier made an extended notice of the occasion from which we condense the following:

"A large and enthusiastic crowd gathered at the Central railroad station to get a look at the great man. The special train conveying him with his family and friends arrived at 12:10 noon. Ample preparations had been made for his reception, and as the train neared the depot, the chime of bells, the booming of cannon, the music of our new brass band and the jubilant shouts of thousands conspired to render the reception a wonderful success. The correspondent of the Albany Journal, who accompanied the presidential party, said, "At Little Falls took place what was pronounced the prettiest brief reception that President Lincoln has received since he left Springfield, and that pleasantly attested that the go-ahead citizens of Little Falls were ready and prompt to do all they could in five minutes to attest their loyalty to the president-elect, their love of the man, and undying zeal in behalf of the institutions he is called upon by the voice of the people to preserve and defend. A platform neatly carpeted had been erected near the railroad tracks, but for reasons named before Mr. Lincoln did not leave the car."

"Several hundred ladies were upon the platform and as the band played "Hail Columbia," they waved their handkerchiefs in unison and the crowd below cheered and hurraed with lusty vigor. The President-elect was suitably announced by S. M. Richmond, president of the village, and responded in a few words as follows:

"Ladies and Gentlemen; I appear before you merely for the purpose of greeting you, saying a few words and bidding you farewell. I can only say, as I have often said before, that I have no speech to make and no time to make one if I had; neither have I the strength to repeat a speech at all the places at which I stop, even though other circumstances were favorable. I am thankful for this opportunity of seeing you, and of allowing you to see me. (Applause). And in this, so far as regards the ladies, I think I have the best of the bargain. (Applause). I don't make that acknowledgment, however, to the gentlemen. (Laughter). And now I believe I have really made my speech and am ready to bid you farewell when the train moves off."

"Those who saw the smile upon his countenance, wondered that that face could be called homely, those who heard his manly voice felt intuitively that it was the voice of an 'honest man'."

Probably there are not a dozen persons now living in this city who were present on this occasion.

12,000 PERSONS ASSEMBLED TO HEAR PRESIDENT

**Emancipator urged Americans
to maintain composure, stand
up to convictions**

CONSTITUTION IS CITED

**Says he expected to do nothing
inconsistent with principles
of document**

The American people need only to maintain their composure, stand up to their sober convictions of right, to their obligations to the Constitution, and act in accordance with those sober convictions and the clouds now on the horizon will be dispelled and we shall have a bright and glorious future.

A modern statesman speaking? No. That is what Abraham Lincoln told about 12,000 Buffalonians just 75 years ago today.

Speaks From Hotel Balcony

The President spoke to them from the balcony of the American Hotel, which was on the site now occupied by the Adam, Meldrum & Anderson department store. He stopped in Buffalo on a tour from Springfield Ill., to Washington, D. C., where he was to take the oath of office on March 4th. Because of the many stops, the trip took from February 11th to February 23d.

In Buffalo he made only a short speech, and this was one of the few he delivered during the trip. But his Buffalo speech was considered extremely significant.

Before he came to Buffalo he stopped at Westfield to see Grace Bedell, a little girl, who wrote to him during his campaign to tell him he was so homely that he ought to grow whiskers. He took her advice and stopped to show her his new-grown beard.

When his train came into the old Exchange Street depot 75 years ago yesterday, it was met by practically the entire population. Lincoln was greeted by former President Millard Fillmore. The other person to greet him as he stepped into his carriage was an unidentified old lady who pushed by police. When officials sought to restrain her, Lincoln motioned her forward and shook her hand. Reports from that time say that dozens were injured in the crush of people who came to welcome the President-elect. All during that evening and night, Lincoln and his wife held public receptions in the American Hotel.

Bands Serenade Him

Bands and organized groups of singers serenaded him below the windows of the hotel. There was much speculation as to where Lincoln would go to church on Sunday, and most of the downtown churches were thronged in anticipation of his visit. Quietly, Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln with the Fillmores went to services in the First Unitarian Church at Franklin and Eagle streets. The building still stands.

In the afternoon he made his address.

"We have not been met alone by those who assisted in giving the election to me," he said. "I say not alone, but by the whole population of the country through which we have passed. This is as it should be. Had the election fallen to any of the distinguished candidates instead of myself, it would have been proper for all citizens to have greeted him as you have greeted me.

"It is evidence of the devotion of the whole people to the Constitution, to the Union and the perpetuity of the liberties of the country. I am unwilling on any occasion that I should be so meanly thought of, as to have it supposed for a moment that these demonstrations are tendered to me personally.

"Your worthy mayor has thought fit to express the hope that I may be able to relieve the country of the present, or should I say the threatened difficulties.

Puts Trust in Supreme Being

"I am sure I bring a heart true to the work. For the ability to per-

form it, I must trust in the Supreme Being who has never forsaken this favored land, through the instrumentality of this great and intelligent people. Without that assistance I shall surely fail. With it, I cannot fail.

"When we speak of the threatened difficulties to the country it is natural that it should be expected that something should be said by myself on particular measures. Upon more mature reflection, however, others will agree with me that when it is considered that these difficulties are without precedent and have never been acted upon by any individual situated as I am, it is most proper I should wait to see the developments and get all the light possible, so that when I do speak authoritatively, I may be as near right as possible.

"When I shall speak authoritatively I hope to say nothing inconsistent with the Constitution, the Union, the rights of the states, of each state and of each section of the country and not to disappoint the reasonable expectations of those who have confided to me their votes. In this connection allow me to say that you as a portion of the great American people need only to maintain your composure, stand up to your sober convictions of right, to your obligations to the Constitution and act in accordance with those sober convictions and the clouds now on the horizon will be dispelled and we shall have a bright and glorious future. And when this generation has passed away tens of thousands will inhabit this country where only thousands inhabit now. I do not propose to address at length I have no voice for it. Allow me to thank you again for this magnificent reception and bid you farewell."

Lincoln said farewell to Buffalo 75 years ago tomorrow. When Buffalo saw him again, he was dead. The funeral cortege stopped on its way back to Springfield.

LINCOLN'S SPEECH IN BUFFALO

Lincoln Hailed Constitution

in Speech Here 75 Years Ago

"I HOPE to say nothing inconsistent with the Constitution, the Union, the rights of all the states, of each state and each section of the country, and not to disappoint the reasonable expectations of those who have confided to me their votes."

Seventy-five years ago this weekend that hope was solemnly expressed in Buffalo by an extremely tall and ungainly man who stood on a balcony of the American hotel in Main street between Eagle and Court streets and addressed a throng of citizens jammed in the street below.

Abraham Lincoln, President-elect of the United States, delivered the brief speech in which those words were uttered soon after he arrived in Buffalo on Feb. 16, 1861, on his circuitous journey from Springfield, Ill., to Washington, where he was to be inaugurated a short time later.

He remained here until Feb. 18, guest of the city and of former President Millard Fillmore, and then continued his trip eastward.

Mr. Lincoln had left Springfield Feb. 11 by train, and before his arrival here had made brief stops at Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Columbus, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Erie and numerous smaller communities.

Drawn by the "Rocket," a crack locomotive of those days, the Lincoln party's train arrived at the railroad station in Exchange street at Washington street. When Mr. Lincoln stepped onto the platform of one of the cars, a dense crowd rushed him, cheering loudly and almost wiping the soldier guards

from their feet despite their bayonets.

An artillery company commenced a noisy salute. Former President Fillmore greeted the visitor.

While a company of the 74th regiment pressed back the throngs, Mr. Lincoln, members of his family and of the large official party which accompanied him, were escorted to carriages.

So great was the crowd jammed about the station that women fainted and considerable confusion existed before the cortege moved toward the American hotel which occupied the site of the present Adam, Meldrum & Anderson Co. store. There were "hundreds of carriages" in line, according to accounts of the event.

Mr. Lincoln and his party, which included Mrs. Lincoln and their children, entered the hotel through a lane between other crowds gathered in front of the hotel. Soon after the President-elect, Mr. Fillmore and others appeared on a balcony facing Main street.

It was late Saturday afternoon and it is safe to guess that a goodly proportion of Buffalo's 81,000 population was jammed in the street below.

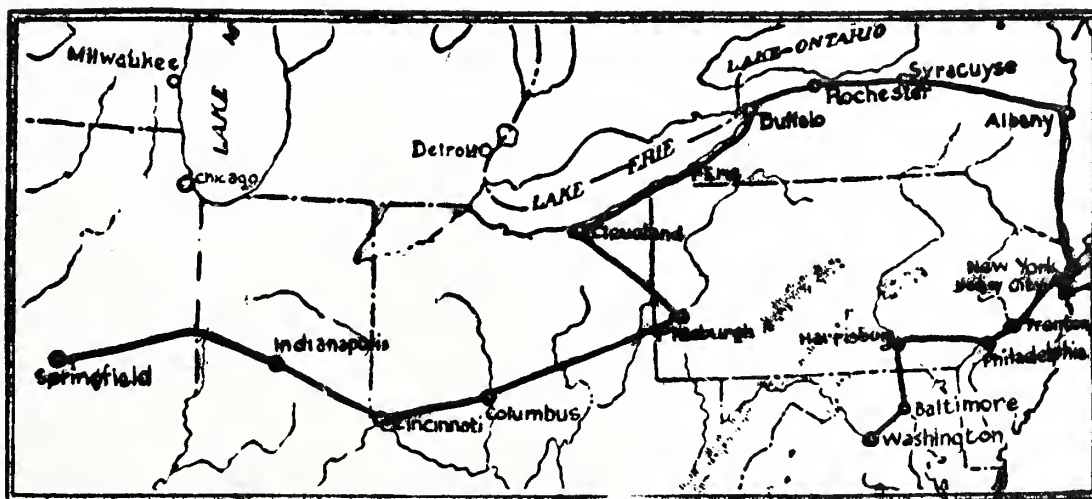
One account of the event said that Mr. Lincoln was introduced by Acting Mayor A. S. Bemis, although another stated the President-elect spoke in response to a welcoming address given by Mayor Franklin A. Alberger.

There were cheers when Mr. Lincoln began speaking. He told of like receptions along the route of his

journey. They were gratifying, he said, because they represented support of the whole people. But any other successful candidate for the presidency should have deserved as much, Mr. Lincoln added.

"It is an evidence of the devotion of the whole people to the Constitution, the union and the perpetuity of the liberties of this country," he declared, following a few moments later with the expression of his hope that when he had assumed his official duties he would "say nothing inconsistent with the Constitution."

Following his hotel speech Mr. Lincoln returned inside where he



Just 75 years ago Abraham Lincoln made his journey to Washington where he was inaugurated President of the United States. Leaving Springfield, Ill., the Lincoln party traveled by a circuitous route (shown on map) which brought the President-elect to Buffalo where he was the city's guest for two days.

met various prominent persons. That evening there was a public reception at the hotel. For three hours the man who soon was to enter the White House on the eve of the nation's most tragic era shook the hands of men and women, kissed children and patted their heads and, one account relates, kissed three young women who were so inclined.

A committee representing the German population of the city welcomed him later. Mr. Lincoln was gratified "with this evidence of the feelings of the German citizens."

"My own idea about our foreign citizens," he added, "has always been that they were no better than

anyone else, and no worse. And it is best that they should forget that they are foreigners as soon as possible."

Mr. Lincoln, his wife and children rested that night in their suite in the hotel. The next day, Sunday, the Lincolns were the guests of the Fillmores at the latter's home. They attended services that morning in the First Unitarian church, where Dr. George W. Hosmer preached and "gave Lincoln godspeed."

Side by side Mr. Fillmore and Mr. Lincoln stood in the Fillmore pew during the singing of hymns.

Mr. Fillmore was a dignified,

courtly man, "a conspicuously elegant" and handsome man.

"Shoulder to shoulder with him," a description said, "rose the queer, raw-boned, ramshackle frame of the Illinoisan, draped in the artless handiwork of a prairie tailor, surmounted by a rugged, homely face."

The Lincolns dined that Sunday at the Fillmore home. During the evening Mr. Lincoln went to St. James hall where he heard a speaker protest against the treatment of Western Indians by settlers and government agents.

That night Mr. Lincoln returned to his hotel suite and arrangements were completed for his very early departure Monday morning.

His train was to leave about 6 o'clock that morning for Rochester, stopping briefly at Batavia.

As the party of the President-elect passed down Main street for the station, it passed a group of firemen wetting down the ruins of a fire which had occurred several hours earlier at Swan street. The firemen stopped their work long enough to line up and cheer "Honest Abe."

The departure from Buffalo was on schedule and the journey that was to end five days later in Washington was resumed. The President-elect's route took him from Rochester to Syracuse, Albany, New York, Philadelphia, Harrisburg and then Baltimore, through which city the party moved secretly, having been advised of a plot to assassinate Mr. Lincoln. The arrival in Washington was on Feb. 23.

'Honest Old Abe' In Hudson—Said The Daily Star 75 Years Ago Today

Seventy-five years ago today, February 19, 1861, Abraham Lincoln paid a visit to Hudson and was received by an admiring throng. He was enroute from Springfield, Ill., to his first inaugural at Washington where he became President of the United States.

The long journey from Springfield, Ill., to the nation's capital covered the period from February eleventh to February twenty-third.

In describing his stop at Hudson, the Daily Star of February 19th, 1861, said: "Honest Old Abe" in Hudson!—Great Enthusiasm!—5,000 people at the depot—Mr. Lincoln makes a short speech—"Old Columbia" was not to be outdone

in loyalty to the new President. At an early hour this forenoon her people from the country and from this city commenced pouring down to the Hudson River Depot. The tide set in from all directions and comprised all ages, sexes, colors and (if we must say it) all parties. The crowd grew to vast proportions, spread itself on the roofs, balconies, wood piles, sheds, etc., and stood upon the track in compact masses, until in the neighborhood of 5,000 people had collected. Such a scene is seldom presented—but we have not time to describe it.

The Stockport brass band appeared about half past 10 and took a position

under the awning of the Depot, where they performed several fine patriotic airs, saluting the train with "Hail Columbia" as it came in.

Flags were hung across the track and run up the depot flag staff. The city flag on Promenade Hill was also hoisted.

The arrangements by our authorities, under the direction of His Honor, Mayor Bachman, were complete, but unfortunately could not be carried out. The platform car was provided, and placed upon the track immediately behind the train, and no one but the Mayor and Recorder was to be allowed to mount it. Col. Mulford had instructions to enter the car and if possible induce the President to step upon the platform. Special policemen were also detailed to stand on either side of the entrance and preserve order.

At but a few minutes before 11 o'clock a gun announced the approach of the train and a burst of delight broke from the crowd. The track was cleared and in a moment more the beautiful engine Union, decorated with the national colors, came slowly in. As it passed along the crowd closed in behind, and an ir-



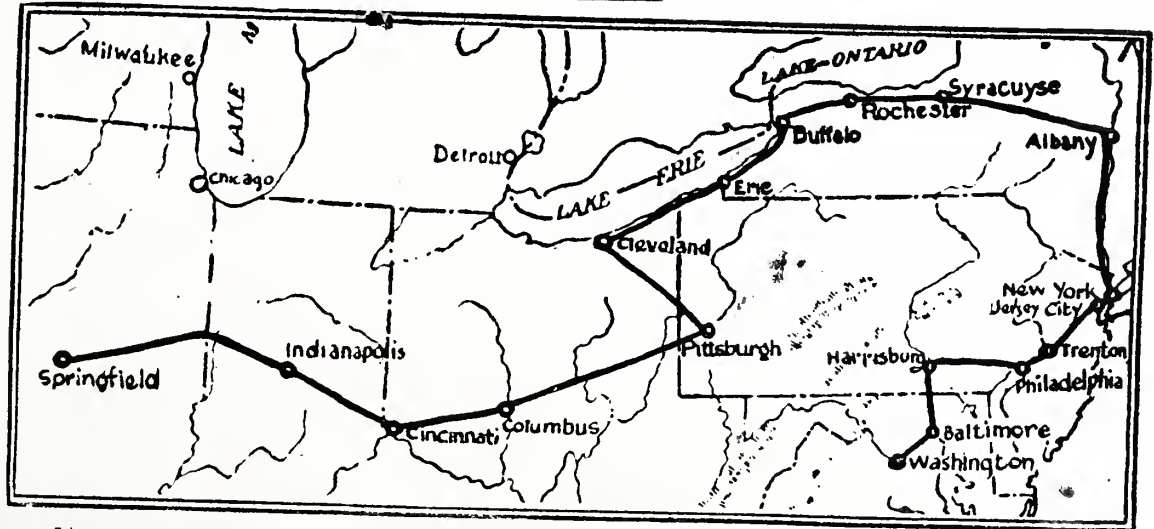
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

resistable pressure from the rear threatened to overwhelm the train itself.

As the train stopped there was a momentary suspense, when immediately Mr Lincoln appeared on the rear platform and said substantially as follows:

"Fellow Citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen: I see you have provided a platform for me to stand upon, but I must decline doing so. I trust, however, you will not draw any inference from this that I will refuse to stand upon any platform with which I am legitimately connected, because I refuse to stand upon yours. I appear before you that I may have the opportunity of seeing you and you of seeing me; and as I have said at other places, I think the ladies, at least, have the advantage of me in this respect. I trust you will excuse me

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1936.



Lincoln's long journey from Springfield, Ill. to Washington, D. C. for his first inaugural. Four years later the funeral train of the martyred Lincoln traversed the same route back to Springfield, Ill.

from any further remarks. I shall only have time to bow you farewell as the train departs."

Cheers upon cheers were given as Mr Lincoln withdrew into the car. The crowd held its position bravely so as to get a parting glimpse of the hero of the occasion, and when the up train arrived it was only by the most imperative efforts that the track could be cleared.

Meantime we heard numerous compliments passed upon Mr. Lincoln's personal appearance by the bystanders. "Why," said one, "he is not such a bad looking man as the pictures represent him." And he is not. Neither does he seem as "old" as we might be excused for supposing him to be from all accounts. His countenance is not especially remarkable, but it has a strong expression of frankness and good nature. In short we like "Old Abe's" looks much better than we expected.

While the train was standing the most intense curiosity was manifested to peer into the car. A few ambitious individuals climbed up at the windows and secured a shake of the hand, but most were utterly disappointed.

None of the officials or citizens were introduced to Mr Lincoln unless we except Mr Mulford, who entered at the request of the Mayor for the purpose of escorting Mr Lincoln to the platform. He was informed by Mr. Wood, the manager, that Mr Lincoln would positively refuse to leave the car.

Thirty-four guns were fired from the Hill during the approach and stoppage of the train.

Alderman R. A. Rainey and three ladies entered the car from the for-

ward end and were introduced to the President. The names of the ladies who enjoyed this distinguished privilege were Misses Elizabeth Hubbell, Alice Salisbury and Josephene Best. Mr Lincoln received them with great cordiality.

We have only to add that the best of order was maintained (barring the crowding, which the ladies declared intolerable) and the immense crowd separated in an excellent mood, feeling well repaid for their effort to see the "next President."

Mr Lincoln also greeted by bowing or making a passing comment at Castle-ton, Schodack, Stuyvesant, Coxsackie Station (now Newton Hook) and Stockport.

On the following day the Star's account of the progress of Lincoln's trip said:

"We copy the following extract from the Tribune's report of the President's reception in Hudson:

"Several interesting young ladies crowded near to the window where he was sitting and extended their hands to him. This was attended with some inconvenience, to avoid which (no one would dare to suggest any other motive) Mr. Lincoln invited them into the car. The invitation was promptly responded to; and as the ladies entered, the President elect gave them a cordial and affectionate welcome. He shook them warmly by the hand, and—never mind the sequel. Suffice it to say, that all who saw the proximity of the President elect's beard to the pouting lips of those sweet faces were fully persuaded that Presidents-elect, in one respect, at least, are not different from other men.

When the ladies who had thus been blessed with a Presidential k---pshaw!—with a demonstrative appreciation of their worth and virtues, had been presented to Mrs Lincoln, they retired and the train moved on."

The policy of silence, with respect to national issues, which Lincoln had been following since his nomination, was continued after his election, and up to the day of his inauguration. At Buffalo where he was a guest of Former President Fillmore he made a statement which reveals his attitude towards public discussion during the entire period. He said:

"When we speak of threatened difficulties to the country, it is natural that it should be expected that something should be said by myself with regard to particular measures. Upon more mature reflection, however, others will agree that these difficulties are without precedent, and have never been acted upon by any individual situated as I am it is most proper I should wait and see the developments, and get all the light possible, so that when I do speak authoritatively, I may be as near right as possible."

The brief address made by Lincoln in Independence Hall at Philadelphia possibly was the outstanding utterance on the way to Washington. A plot which contemplated the assassination of Lincoln as he passed through Baltimore was discovered by detectives who supplemented Secretary Seward's advice that Lincoln proceed immediately Washington from Harrisburg.

Buffalo Told They Honored Not Him but the Country; President-Elect Placed Faith in Constitution and the Liberties Which It Guaranteed.

7/1938

PRESSING through throngs that at times threatened to halt his progress through the streets. Abraham Lincoln came to Buffalo on Feb. 16, 1861, a little more than 77 years ago today, to declare in all humility that it was not to him the people were paying homage but to the representative of a great and beloved country.

He was then on his way to Washington for his inauguration as the Civil War president of the United States. He had stopped at Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Columbus, Pittsburgh and Cleveland on his way. Here he was to visit the former President Millard Fillmore and to attend services the next day in the First Unitarian church with his host.

Thus, Abraham Lincoln, the president whose birthday is commemorated today, was never here as president, but as president-elect. A little more than four years later, his body lay in state in St. James Hall as the funeral train of the martyred leader paused here as he was being carried back to his Illinois home.

BUT it is the humility of the man who had been victorious in the most crucial presidential campaign in the nation's history that one recalls today when dictatorships are in vogue and men seek to rule the destinies of great nations by theory and governmental experiment.

Dr. Benjamin Copeland has brought together these facts of the Lincoln Buffalo visit.

"Arriving at Buffalo, Mr. Lincoln had the utmost difficulty to make his way through the dense crowd which had assembled in anticipation of his arrival. On reaching the American hotel, he was welcomed in a brief speech by Acting Mayor Bemis, to which he responded as follows:

"Mr. Mayor and Fellow Citizens of Buffalo and the State of New York: I am here to thank you briefly for this grand reception given to me, not personally, but as the representative of our great and beloved country (cheers).

"Your worthy mayor has been pleased to mention, in his address to me, the fortunate and agreeable journey which I have had from home, only it is a rather circuitous route to the Federal Capital. I am very happy that he was enabled in truth to congratulate myself and company on that fact.

"It is true we have had nothing thus far to mar the pleasure of the trip. We have not been met alone by those who assisted in giving the election to me;—I say not alone by them, but by the whole population of the country through which we have passed. This is as it should be.

"HAD the election fallen to any other of the distinguished candidates instead of myself, under the peculiar circumstances, to say the least, it would have been proper for all citizens to have greeted him as you now greet me. It is an evidence of devotion of the whole people to the Constitution, the Union, and the perpetuity of the liberties of this country. (Cheers.)

"I am unwilling on any occasion that it should be so meanly thought of as to have it supposed for a moment that these demonstrations are tendered to me personally. They are tendered to the country, to the institutions of the country, and to the perpetuity of the liberties of the country, for which those institutions were made and created.

"Your worthy mayor has expressed the hope that I may be able to relieve the country from the present, or I should say, the threatened difficulties. I am sure I bring a heart true to the work. (Tremendous applause.) For, the ability to perform it, I must trust to that Supreme Being who has never forsaken this favored land—through the instrumentality of this great and intelligent people. Without that assistance I shall surely fail;—with it, I cannot fail. . .

"In this connection allow me to say, that you, as a portion of the great American people, need only to maintain your composure, stand up to your sober convictions of right, to your obligations to the Constitution, and act in accordance with those sober convictions, and the clouds which now arise in the horizon will be dispelled, and we shall have a bright and glorious future; and when this generation has passed away, tens of thousands will inhabit this country, where only thousands inhabit it now. I do not propose to address you at length; I have no voice for it. Allow me to thank you again for this magnificent reception, and bid you farewell."

Then, the American hotel stood where the Adam, Mel-drum & Anderson store now stands. Four years later, the site of the hotel held nothing but charred ruins, three persons having been killed when the walls of the famed hostelry collapsed. And the memory of the disaster was fresh in the minds of Buffalonians when the funeral train arrived on April 27.

The church in which the president-elect worshipped with Millard Fillmore stood where the Austin building now stands at 110 Franklin street.

Each succeeding year brings its quota of Lincoln anecdotes. Nearly 73 years have passed since the 16th President of the United States was assassinated but there seems to be no decrease in the stories which are told about him.

THIS year there is something new in Lincolniana — "The Hidden Lincoln," a volume of facts about the public and private life of the Great Emancipator, many of them hitherto unrecounted. The information has been gleaned from the letters and papers of William H. Herndon, who was Lincoln's law partner from 1845 until the assassination in 1865. The book is edited by Emanuel Hertz, owner of a large private collection of Lincolniana.

The Lincoln who is revealed in this latest collection of data on the life of the martyred President is not the austere but kindly man so often portrayed by artists and biographers. There are evidences of that austerity and kindness, but the portrait is much more revealing of an intensely human, thoroughly likable individual. Herndon treasured the memory of his association with Lincoln. "Mr. Lincoln was the best

friend I ever had or expect to have except my wife and mother," he wrote on one occasion. But in revealing his letters and papers which throw light on the life of Lincoln, he offered sacrifice at the altar of "Truth, Absolute Truth, Right and Justice." It was his belief that "in proportion as this march (toward Truth) is made, so dies blind, bat-eyed hero worship."

There is much in "The Hidden Lincoln" that will unquestionably fill the souls of iconoclasts with unholy glee while playing havoc with the sensitivities of those who worship blindly at the shrine of their hero. Doubtless many persons will learn with something of a

shock in the Herndon letters that Lincoln's life with Mary Todd Lincoln was unharmonious, to put it mildly, and that Mrs. Lincoln was known for her violent temper.

THUS, in one letter Herndon reveals that Mrs. Lincoln could not keep a hired girl because of her tyrannical attitudes. Elsewhere he tells how Lincoln once tried to bribe a hired girl to stay, by paying her

extra wages behind Mrs. Lincoln's back, and of how Mrs. Lincoln found it out. Again:

"Lincoln as a general rule dared not invite anyone to his house, because he did not know what moment she would kick Lincoln and his friend out of the house."

The Lincoln who could probe with rapier-like insight the weakness of an opponent's argument could not, according to Herndon, detect the obvious faults of his sons, Willie and Tad.

"Lincoln was proud of his children and blind to their faults," says one letter. "He used to come to our office

on a Sunday, when Mrs. Lincoln had gone to church to show her new bonnet, leaving Lincoln to care for and attend the children. Lincoln would turn Willie and Tad loose in our office, and they soon gutted the room, gutted the shelves of books, rifled the drawers, and riddled boxes, battered the points of my gold pens against the stairs, turned over the inkstands on the papers, scattered letters over the office, and danced over them and the like.

"I have felt many a time that I wanted to wring the necks of these brats and pitch them out of the windows, but out of respect for Lincoln and knowing that he was abstracted,

I shut my mouth, bit my lips, and left for parts unknown."

LATER Herndon wrote:

"I wish you would write out a short eulogy on Lincoln's virtue during his married life. Lincoln I know, as well as I know anything, was true to his wife, to his marriage vow. His idea was that a woman had the same right (in his respect) that a man had, and no more nor less, and that he had no moral or other right to violate the sacred marriage vow. I have heard him say it a dozen or more times. 'Lincoln's honor,' as Judge Davis said, 'saved many a woman.' This is true to my own knowledge.

For those who would condemn these revelatory glimpses of the more intimate side of Lincoln's life there is the retort of Herndon himself, written for a discarded preface to an earlier biography of Lincoln:

"I want to tell the truth about Lincoln and nothing but the truth and the whole truth. If he was alive, I am sure he would most heartily approve of my course . . . Doubtless there are some persons of a peculiar cast of mind who will object to having dug up old facts out of the tomb where they have long been buried. These facts are indispensable to a full knowledge of Mr. Lincoln in all the walks of life in every direction . . . Those who do not love the truth and cannot endure it, cannot look it square in the face, had better dash this book down, dash it down instantly and at once, and be done with it and the disturbing and irritating truths in it."

MOST biographers of Lincoln are agreed that it was because of the unhappiness in his own life that he was able to extend sympathy to others, that because he had no illusions concerning himself he won to immortality in the hearts of the American people. As Prof. Thomas Vernon Smith of the University of Chicago once said of him:

"This Lincoln whom so many living friends and foes alike deemed foolish had his bitterness in laughter; fed his sympathy on solitude, and met recurring disaster with whimsicality to muffle the murmur of a bleeding heart.

"Out of the tragic sense of life he pitied where others blamed; bowed his own shoulders with the woes of the weak; endured humanely his little day of chance power; and won through death what life disdains to bestow upon such simple souls—lasting peace and everlasting glory.

"How prudently we proud men compete for nameless graves, while now and then some starveling of Fate forgets himself into immortality."



Lincoln Lore

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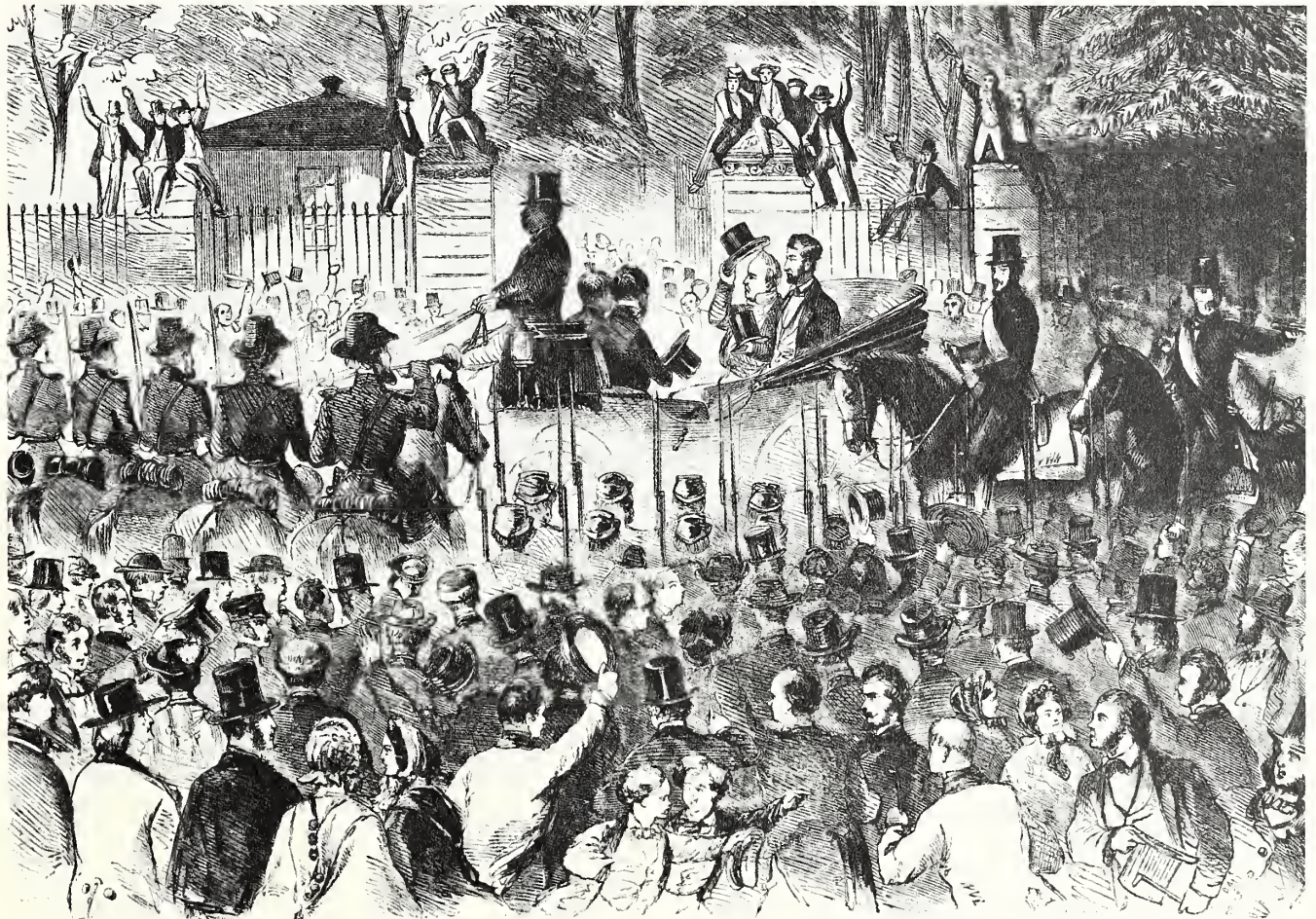
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FIVE EX-PRESIDENTS WATCHED THE LINCOLN ADMINISTRATION

Presidents who retire from office are expected to become "elder statesmen." Former President Richard M. Nixon seems currently to be bidding for that status by promising to speak occasionally "in non-political forums." He will stress foreign policy, he says, because partisanship is supposed to end at America's shores. He promises to be above the partisan battles of the day; he will become an elder statesman.

In Lincoln's day, Presidents who left office did not automatically assume the status of elder statesmen. The five surviving ex-Presidents in 1861 — Martin Van Buren, John Tyler,

Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce, and James Buchanan — did have enough reputation for being above the party battles for it to be suggested more than once that they meet to find remedies for the secession crisis. That such a meeting never took place is eloquent testimony to the weakness of the non-partisan ideal in the nineteenth century. The broad public did not regard these men — and the ex-Presidents did not regard each other — as passionless Nestors well on their way to becoming marble statues. They proved, in fact, to be fiercely partisan.



*From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum*

FIGURE 1. Lincoln met two former Presidents shortly before his inauguration in 1861. Millard Fillmore greeted him in Buffalo, New York, and he met the incumbent, James Buchanan, twice in Washington. Reporters indicated that in both cases Lincoln chatted amiably, but no one knows the subjects of their conversations.

It was an irony that John Tyler came nearest to assuming an official status as a nonpartisan adjudicator in a conference meant to reconcile the sections, for he would later demonstrate the greatest partisan difference from the Lincoln administration of any of the former Presidents. By November of 1860, Tyler already thought it too late for a convocation of representatives of all the states to arrive at a compromise settlement which would save the Union. He did recommend a meeting of "border states" which would bear the brunt of any sectional war in the event a compromise was not reached. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri could at least arrange a peaceful separation of the South if they could not keep the Union together. Tyler's proposal never bore fruit, but, when the Virginia General As-

sembly proposed a peace conference of all states in Washington for February, 1861, Tyler became one of Virginia's five commissioners at the convention. The delegates in Washington elected Tyler president of the conference unanimously, but the convention was so divided in voting on recommendations that it was largely ignored by Congress. Tyler returned to Virginia and became an advocate of secession. When urged to lead a compromise movement after the fall of Fort Sumter in the spring, Tyler thought it hopeless. Lincoln, he said, "having weighed in the scales the value of a mere local Fort against the value of the Union itself" had brought on "the very collision he well knew would arise whenever Fort Sumter was attempted to be reinforced or provisioned." In November, Tyler was elected to serve in the Confederate House of Representatives. Far from becoming an elder statesman, John Tyler played a role in destroying the nation which had once elected him Vice-President.

Millard Fillmore despised Republicans as threats to the Union he loved and had once helped to preserve (by supporting the Compromise of 1850). In the secession crisis, he felt that the burden lay upon Republicans to give "some assurance . . . that they, . . . are ready and willing to . . . repeal all unconstitutional state laws; live up to the compromises of the Constitution, and . . . treat our Southern brethren as friends." Nevertheless, he disagreed with the cautious policy of lame-duck President James Buchanan, who felt that the government had no authority to "coerce a state." The men who passed ordinances of secession, Fillmore argued, should be "regarded as an unauthorized assembly of men conspiring to commit treason, and as such liable to be punished like any other unlawful assembly engaged in the same business."

Though no one knows how Fillmore voted in 1860, it is doubtful that he voted for Lincoln. It seemed awkward, there-

fore, when Fillmore was Lincoln's official host during his stay in Buffalo, New York, on the way to Washington for the inaugural ceremonies. Fillmore took him to the First Unitarian Church in the morning and at night to a meeting in behalf of Indians, but no one knows what they talked about.

When war broke out in April, Fillmore rallied quickly to the colors. Four days after the fall of Fort Sumter, the ex-President was speaking to a mass Union rally in Buffalo, saying that it was "no time now to inquire by whose fault or folly this state of things has been produced;" it was time for "every man to stand to his post, and . . . let posterity . . . find our skeleton and armor on the spot where duty required us to stand." He gave five hundred dollars for the support of families of volunteers and soon organized the Union Continentals, a company of men too old to fight. Enrolling Buffalo's older men of sub-

stance in the Union cause, the Continentals dressed in colorful uniforms, provided escorts for ceremonial and patriotic occasions, and provided leverage for procuring donations for the Union cause. Fearing British invasion through Canada to aid the Confederacy, Fillmore hounded the government to provide arms and men to protect the Niagara frontier.

Suddenly in February of 1864, Fillmore performed an abrupt about-face. In the opening address for the Great Central Fair of the Ladies Christian Commission in Buffalo, Fillmore rehearsed a catalogue of war-induced suffering and announced that "lasting peace" would come only when much was "forgiven, if not forgotten." When the war ended, the United States should restore the South "to all their rights under the Constitution." Republicans were outraged. The ex-President had turned a nonpartisan patriotic rally into a veiled criticism of the administration's conduct of the war.

Personally, Fillmore felt that the country was "on the verge of ruin." Without a change in the administration, he said, "we must soon end in national bankruptcy and military despotism." The ex-President, once a Whig and a Know-Nothing, endorsed Democrat George B. McClellan for the Presidency in 1864.

After Lincoln's assassination, Fillmore led the delegation which met the President's funeral train and escorted it to Buffalo. This did not expunge from Republican's memories Fillmore's partisan acts of 1864. Nor did it cool his dislike of Republicans. In 1869, he stated that it would be "a blessing to break the ranks of the corrupt proscription radical party, that now curses the country. Could moderate men of both parties unite in forming a new one . . . it would be well."

Among the five living ex-Presidents, none was more hostile to President Lincoln than Franklin Pierce. In 1860, he hoped



*From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum*

FIGURE 2. Millard Fillmore.

that a united Democratic party would choose Southern candidate John C. Breckinridge. The New Hampshire Democrats endorsed Stephen A. Douglas instead, but Pierce went along with the decision, though without enthusiasm. Lincoln's election was, for this Democratic ex-President, a "distinct and unequivocal denial of the coequal rights" of the states. In a letter written on Christmas Eve, 1861, Pierce urged the South to delay action for six months. If the North did not right the wrongs done the South, then she could depart in peace.

It was hoped that all of the ex-Presidents might attend John Tyler's Washington Peace Conference. Pierce declined, saying that "the North have been the first wrong doers and [he had] never been able to see how a successful appeal could be made to the south without first placing [the North] right." After news of Fort Sumter's fall, however, he reconsidered and wrote ex-President Martin Van Buren, suggesting that Van Buren assemble the former Presidents in Philadelphia to resolve the crisis. He spoke in Concord, New Hampshire, urging the citizens "to stand together and uphold the flag." Van Buren declined to call the former Presidents together and suggested that Pierce himself should. The wind went out of the sails of the idea of an ex-Presidents' peace convention.

Soon, Pierce lost his enthusiasm for the war effort. He made a trip in the summer of 1861 to Michigan and Kentucky to visit old political friends. On Christmas Eve, he received a letter from Secretary of State William H. Seward, then in charge of the administration's political arrests, enclosing a letter from an anonymous source which accused Pierce of making his trip to promote membership in the Knights of the Golden Circle, "a secret league" whose object was "to overthrow the Government." Seward unceremoniously demanded an explanation from the former President of the United States. Pierce indignantly denied the charge, Seward quickly apologized, and it was soon discovered that Seward had fallen for a hoax. An opponent of the Republicans had written the letter to show how far the Republicans would go in their policy of crying "treason" at the slightest provocation.

Pierce sank into despair. He loathed the proscription of civil liberties in the North, detested emancipation, and saw the Lincoln administration as a despotic reign. The killing of white men for the sake of freeing black men was beyond his comprehension. He thought Lincoln a man of "limited ability and narrow intelligence" who was the mere tool of the abolitionists. He stopped short of endorsing the Southern cause. Old friends avoided him, but Pierce swore never to "justify, sustain, or in any way or to any extent uphold this cruel, heartless, aimless unnecessary war."

At a rally in Concord on July 4, 1863, Pierce courted martyrdom. "True it is," he said, "that I may be the next victim of unconstitutional, arbitrary, irresponsible power." He called efforts to maintain the Union by force of arms "futile" and said that only through "peaceful agencies" could it be saved. Pamphlets compared Pierce to Benedict Arnold, but he persisted and urged the Democratic party to adopt a platform in 1864 calling for restoring the Union by ceasing to fight. Republicans did not forget his actions. New Hampshire provided no public recognition of her son's public career for fifty years after the war.

Martin Van Buren, alone among the ex-Presidents, gave the Lincoln administration unwavering support. He refused Pierce's invitation to organize a meeting of ex-Presidents out of a desire not to be associated with James Buchanan, whose course during the secession crisis Van Buren despised. He had confidence in Lincoln, based probably on information he received from the Blair family, Montgomery Blair being a Republican and a member of Lincoln's cabinet.

There was no more interesting course pursued by an ex-President than James Buchanan's. He had more reason than any other to feel directly antagonistic to the Lincoln administration. Like Pierce, Buchanan had been accused by Lincoln in 1858 of conspiring with Stephen A. Douglas and Roger B. Taney to nationalize slavery in the United States. As Lincoln's immediate predecessor in the office, Buchanan had succeeded in his goal of avoiding war with the South until the new administration came in. The price of this success was the popular imputation of blame on the weak and vacillating course of the Buchanan administration for not nipping seces-

sion in the bud. It was commonly asserted that Buchanan conspired with secessionists to let the South out of the Union. Lincoln's Vice-President Hannibal Hamlin, for example, felt that the Buchanan administration "connives at acts of treason at the South." Despite the findings of a Congressional investigation, many persisted in the belief that the administration had allowed a disproportionate share of arms to flow to Southern arsenals and a dangerously large amount of money to remain in Southern mints. When war broke out, feelings were so strong against Buchanan that he required a guard from the local Masonic Lodge in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to protect his home, Wheatland, from vandalism and himself from personal injury. President Lincoln did not help Buchanan's plight when, in his message of July 4, 1861, he charged that he found the following upon entering office: a "disproportionate share, of the Federal muskets and rifles" in Southern armories, money in Southern mints, the "Navy . . . scattered in distant seas," and Fort Pickens incapable of reinforcement because of "some quasi armistice of the late administration."

Such charges rankled Buchanan, and he spent much of the war years in a careful but quiet attempt to amass documentation which would refute the charges. By late 1862, he had written a book which accomplished this task (to his satisfaction, at least), but he delayed publication until 1866 "to avoid the possible imputation . . . that any portion of it was intended to embarrass Mr. Lincoln's administration." Buchanan's friend Jeremiah Black had doubted that Buchanan could defend his own administration without attacking Lincoln's:

It is vain to think that the two administrations can be made consistent. The fire upon the Star of the West was as bad as the fire on Fort Sumter; and the taking of Fort Moultrie & Pinckney was worse than either. If this war is right and politic and wise and constitutional, I cannot but think you ought to have made it.

Despite the many reasons for which Buchanan might have opposed the Lincoln administration, the ex-President did not. As far as he was concerned, the seceding states "chose to commence civil war, & Mr. Lincoln had no alternative but to defend the country against dismemberment. I certainly should have done the same thing had they begun the war in my time, & this they well knew." Buchanan did not think the war unconstitutional, and he repeatedly told Democrats that it was futile to demand peace proposals. He also supported the draft.

Buchanan considered it too late in 1864 for the Democrats to argue that Lincoln had changed the war's aims. He was pleased to see that McClellan, the Democratic candidate, thought so too. Lincoln's victory in the election, which Buchanan equated with the dubious honor of winning an elephant, caused Buchanan to think that the President should give a "frank and manly offer to the Confederates that they might return to the Union just as they were before." The ex-President's political views were as clearly nostalgic and indifferent to emancipation as those of any Democrat, but he was not among those Democrats who criticized the war or the measures Lincoln used to fight it.

Buchanan spoke of Lincoln in complimentary language. He thought him "a man of honest heart & true manly feelings." Lincoln was "patriotic," and Buchanan deemed his assassination "a terrible misfortune." The two men had met twice when Lincoln came to Washington to assume the Presidency, and Buchanan recalled the meetings fondly, remembering Lincoln's "kindly and benevolent heart and . . . plain, sincere and frank manners." When the Lincoln funeral train passed through Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Buchanan watched it from his buggy.

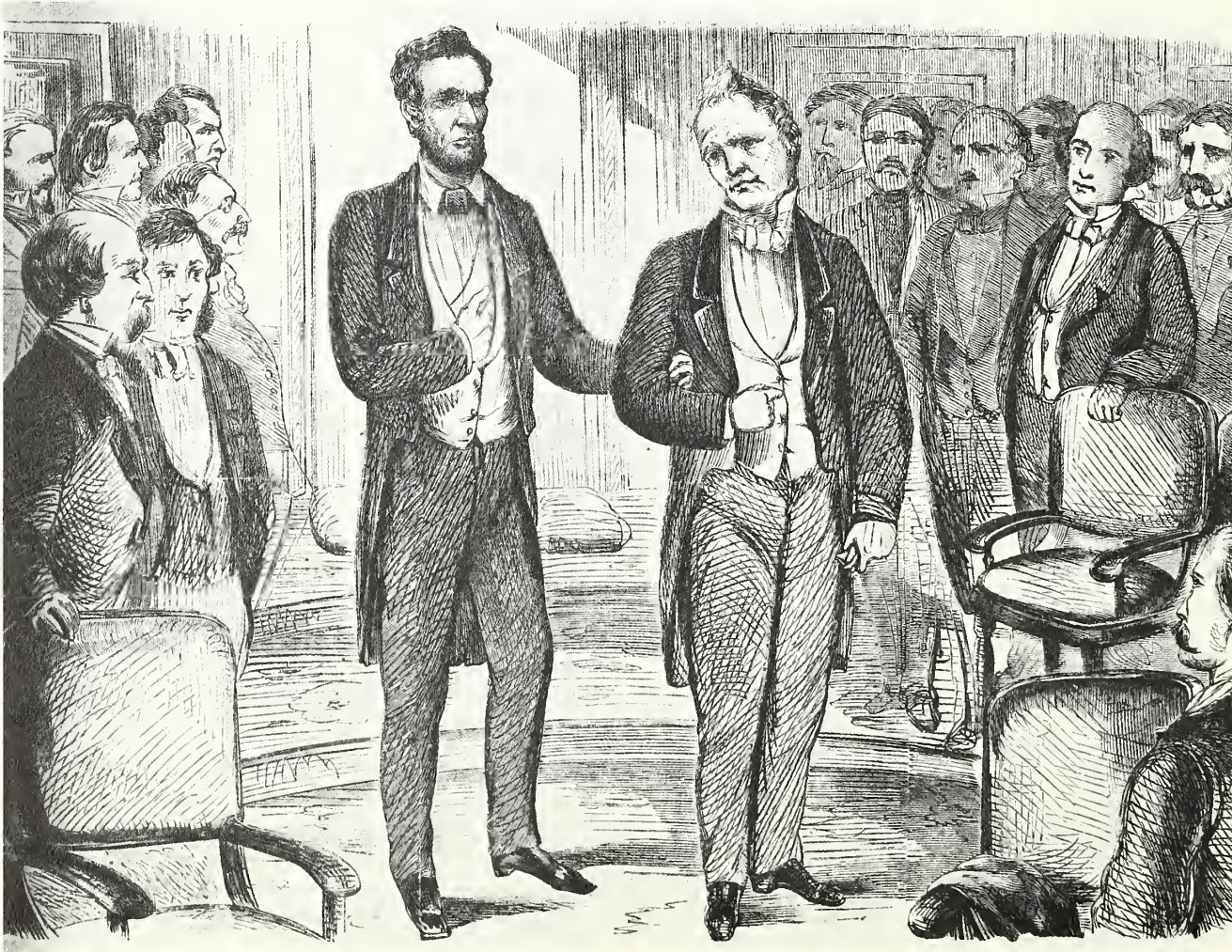
The ex-Presidents benefitted from the Revisionism of historians like James G. Randall. It was their work which rectified the generations-old charge that Buchanan trifled with treason. In some cases, however, this has been a distorting force. Randall's *Lincoln the President: Midstream* (New York: Dodd, Mead, 1952) gives the reader an extremely sympathetic portrait of Franklin Pierce in keeping with Randall's view that most Democrats more truly represented Lincoln's views than his fellow Republicans. Thus Pierce appears as the victim of Seward's misguided zeal in the affair of the Knights of

the Golden Circle hoax and, in a particularly touching moment, as the friendly consoler of a bereaved father in the White House. In a horrible train accident immediately before entering the Presidency, Pierce and his wife had witnessed the death of their young son mangled in the wreckage of their car. Therefore, when Willie Lincoln died in 1862, ex-President Pierce sent a letter offering condolences. This is all one learns of Franklin Pierce in Randall's volumes on Lincoln's administration. It is useful to know of his partisan opposition to Lincoln and the war as well, and it in no way detracts from the magnanimity of his letter of condolence. If anything, it serves to highlight the personal depth of feeling Pierce must have felt for the Lincolns in their time of personal bereavement; it allows us even better to appreciate him as a man as well as a politician.

It is easy to forget that Presidents are men. This look at the ex-Presidents of Lincoln's day is a reminder that these men retained their personal and partisan views of the world. It would be hard to imagine an ex-President's club. Van Buren would have nothing to do with Buchanan, though both had been Democrats. Van Buren took the popular view that Buchanan was a "doughface" who trucked to the South instead of standing up to it as Andrew Jackson had done during the Nullification crisis. John Tyler remained a Virginian at heart and cast his fortunes with secession and against the country of which he had been President. Franklin Pierce and Millard Fillmore, the one a Democrat and the other a Whig in their prime,

retained a dislike of the Republican party. Fillmore supported the war with vigor but came to despair of the effort through suspicion that the Republican administration mishandled it. Pierce always blamed the war on Republican provocation and came quickly, and not without some provocation from the administration, to oppose the war effort bitterly. Ironically, James Buchanan, who labored under the heaviest burden of charges of Southern sympathies, was the least critical of the administration of any of the ex-Presidents except Martin Van Buren. Critical of Republican war aims like the rest, Buchanan, nevertheless, supported the war effort and maintained a high personal regard for his Presidential successor. Buchanan thus approached the twentieth-century ideal of an elder statesman.

Editor's Note: The Presidents of Lincoln's era have been rather well served by their biographers. Two splendid examples are Roy F. Nichols's *Franklin Pierce: Young Hickory of the Granite Hills* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1958) and Philip Shriver Klein's *President James Buchanan: A Biography* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1962). Robert J. Rayback's *Millard Fillmore: Biography of a President* (Buffalo: Buffalo Historical Society, 1959) and Robert Seager, II's *And Tyler Too: A Biography of John & Julia Gardiner Tyler* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1963) are useful. There is no careful study of Martin Van Buren's later life. The sketches of these Presidents here are based on these volumes.



From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 3. Lincoln and Buchanan did not meet again after this day.

ty Thousand More.
Balsley, Connellsville, Pa.)
to the comrades' graves
I tribute we bore,
ids were many; but now—
40,000 more.



MEMORIAL DAY, LINCOLN TALKS TO LEGISLATURE

Came to Albany in 1861 and Speaks
to Joint Assembly, Delivering a
Simple, but Strong Address in which
He Emphasizes His Own Humility.

When President Lincoln came to Albany, on February 18, 1861, he addressed the joint session of the Legislature, after being introduced by Hon. Andrew J. Colvin, in part, as follows:

"You have invited and received me without distinction of party. I cannot for a moment suppose that this has been done in any considerable degree with reference to my personal services, but that it is done, in so far as I am regarded, at this time, as the representative of the majesty of this great nation. I doubt not this is the

truth, and the whole truth, of the case, and this is as it should be. It is much more gratifying to me that this reception has been given to me as the elected representative of a free people, than it could possibly be if tendered merely as an evidence of devotion to me, or to any one man personally.

"And now I think it more fitting that I should close these hasty remarks. It is true that, while I hold myself, without mock modesty, the humblest of all individuals that have ever been elevated to the presidency, I have a more difficult task to perform than any one of them.

"You have generously tendered me the support—the united support—of the great Empire State. For this, in behalf of the nation—in behalf of the present and future of the nation—in behalf of civil and religious liberty for all time to come, most gratefully do I thank you. I do not propose to enter into an explanation of any particular line of policy, as to our present difficulties, to be adopted by the incoming administration. I deem it just to you, to myself, to all, that I should see everything, that I should hear everything, that I should have every light that can be brought within my reach, in order that, when I do speak, I shall have enjoyed

every opportunity to take correct and true ground; and for this reason I do not propose to speak at this time of the policy of the government. But when the time comes, I shall speak, as well as I am able, for the good of the present and future of this country—for the good both of the North and of the South—for the good of the one and the other, and of all sections of the country. In the meantime, if we have patience, if we restrain ourselves, if we allow ourselves not to run off in a passion, I still have confidence that the Almighty, the Maker of the universe, will, through the instrumentality of this great and intelligent people, bring us through this as he has through all the other difficulties of our country. Relying on this, I again thank you for this generous reception."

WHAT LINCOLN THOUGHT.

"As I witnessed the presentation of banners," he said, "I thought of an incident which happened in the life of our martyred Lincoln when he was on his way to his first inauguration as President of the United States. The train upon which he was travelling stopped at Dunkirk, N. Y., and a great crowd of people had gathered at the platform expecting to hear a speech. A gray-haired man spoke out of the crowd and said, 'Uncle Abe, what are you going to do when you get to Washington?'"

"He reached up and took down one of the little flags used in the decoration of the train, and holding it before the assembled multitude he continued: 'By the help of Almighty God and the assistance of the loyal people of this country, I am going to try to defend the flag. Will you stand by me as I stand by the flag?' And the deafening cheers of the multitude attested the loyalty of their answer."

